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# Daily Report

# Latin America

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# Daily Report
## Latin America

*FBIS-LAT-94-246* *22 December 1994*

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## Cuba

### Raul Castro Debates National Defense Bill at ANPP

*FL2212014994 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 21 Dec 94*

[From the "National Radio News"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Delegate Raul Castro, minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR], is actively participating in the debate on the national defense bill at the regular session of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP]. The discussion of the national defense bill has been the delegates' principal focus. They have given it all the emphasis required by a body of laws of such magnitude and such impact on Cuban life. The ANPP is therefore analyzing a highly political, technical document, the draft of which began in early 1987. Delegate Ulises Rosales del Toro presented the introductory document to the plenum. This document analyzes the central articles of the law and discusses the link between defense and the national economy.

[Begin Rosales recording] Regarding the compatibility between Cuba's socioeconomic development and its defense interests, the document includes the entire group of activities to be carried out, from their complete initial analysis to the fulfillment of the requirements that must be considered regarding investments, purchase and production of equipment, and studies and scientific-technical research on the economy. [end recording]

General Guillermo Rodriguez del Pozo, president of the ANPP Defense Commission, presented his conclusions to the plenum. This was followed by debate, which can best be described as profound, based on the complexity of this law that was debated today in our Parliament. Delegate Army General Raul Castro also stressed the importance and far-reaching nature of the text of the bill.

[Begin Castro recording] It must be made very clear because the military must begin to study this law, beginning with the FAR and the Interior Ministry, we who are first in the line of duty when it comes to following our nation's laws. [end recording]

During today's session, the delegates will also debate the mining bill that is included on the ANPP agenda.

### Alarcon Stresses Collective Effort at ANPP Session

*FL2112174494 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1248 GMT 21 Dec 94*

[From the "Doing Radio" program—monitored in progress]

[FBIS Translated Text]...contribution of Ricardo Alarcon, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP], on the debates on low-income housing construction programs, materials, and energy sources. After several delegates spoke, comrades from the Ministries of Construction, and Construction Materials, and the Housing Institute briefed the assembly on figures and performance levels. After listening to these accomplishments, Alarcon responded.

[Begin Alarcon recording] This means that, we should proceed with this effort, with this undertaking, in every province, from the People's Councils to the ANPP, with the overriding objective of achieving something pointed out by Comrade Leonardo in the concluding report of the ANPP's Productivity Commission: That is, to really succeed in effectively involving the people, so that this becomes a true movement of the masses; with the participation of all workers, of all the Cuban people; with the cooperation of technicians, cadres, and specialists, so that this undertaking is carried out, factoring in the technical requirements and the input the specialists have presented that was included in the Ministry of Construction's report, and in comrade (Navitarte's) report.

We must also keep in mind the limitations we have in carrying out this endeavour. We must not create unrealistic expectations, but we must not cease to do absolutely everything we can, always remembering that with socialism, it can be done. With the collective efforts of the Cuban people, it can be done. With the concerted will of all, it can be done. Just as we are demonstrating at this very moment, this very year, that we can do more; that we have done more, much more, than the bourgeois republic was able to offer the people of Havana City in the middle of this century. [end recording]

The ANPP, chaired by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, also listened to Culture Minister Armando Hart's address on the 90th anniversary of the birth of Alejo Carpentier. The sessions will continue today, and the delegates will discuss and approve the National Defense Bill, as well as the Mining Bill.

### More Information on Convertible Peso

*FL2112142694 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 21 Dec 94*

[From the "NTV" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Today the new convertible peso began to circulate throughout Cuba. It is equivalent to the U.S. dollar. The convertible peso has the same size, 150 by 70 mm, and the primary illustration it carries is a partial view of the monument built to the heroes of our independence and liberation. Each bill denomination has its own color. The ones, threes, fives, tens, twenties, fifties, and one hundreds appear in writing, Arabic numerals, and in braille.

The Cuban National Bank began today to exchange convertible pesos for certificates and foreign currency. A 60-day period was established to eliminate the different foreign currency certificates (certificados de divisas) that are currently in circulation. Convertible pesos will be

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given to workers involved in sectors that provide foreign currency incentives. The gradual implementation of the convertible peso will not eliminate [words indistinct] or having dollars or other currencies, which is authorized by Decree-Law 140.

A report published in GRANMA newspaper announces that the convertible peso will not be exchanged for national currency.

The introduction of this new bill is due to a resolution taken by the National Assembly of the People's Government aimed at correcting the national economy. During a first phase, this national means of payment will substitute for the current diversity of certificates, will provide experience in the circulation of foreign currency, and will offer the population more possibilities for exchange.

### Border Guards Rescue Rafters From Minefields

*FL2212004994 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 21 Dec 94*

[From the "National Radio News"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Border patrol soldiers in Guantanamo have rescued approximately 600 rafters from minefields in recent months while the rafters were attempting to escape from the U.S. Naval Base there. This information was reported to a group of military attaches from various countries with diplomatic missions in Cuba who had arrived in Guantanamo at the invitation of Army General Raul Castro. The diplomats heard from soldiers, sergeants, and officials about how they have entered the dangerous minefields over 100 times to save the lives of rafters.

### Canal Rafters Sanctioned; Guantanamo Repatriations Halted

*FL2112162494 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 21 Dec 94*

[From the "Doing Radio" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. Army suspended telephone, newspaper, and television services to more than 2,000 illegal Cuban migrants located on military bases in the Panama Canal area. Meanwhile, an appellate court ordered the temporary suspension of the repatriation of rafters from the Guantanamo Naval Base.

A U.S. military spokesman indicated that the suspension of telephone, press, and television services to the more than 2,000 Cuban rafters in Panama was adopted as a sanction for the 7 and 8 December riots. The riots took place in two of the four camps in Panama. The Cubans denounced abuses by U.S. soldiers and staged a protest which resulted in two rafters being killed, 249 people being injured, and two Cubans missing.

On the other hand, an appellate court in Atlanta ordered the suspension of all repatriations of Cubans and Haitians from Guantanamo until it is determined if those refugee have rights under the U.S. Constitution. This order, dictated late Monday afternoon, replaces a provisional mandate of 4 November which authorized the repatriation of those who expressed their desire to return to their country after speaking to a lawyer.

### Oil Strike Confirms North Coast Fuel Potential

*FL2212000494 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 21 Dec 94*

[From the "National Radio News"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ministry of Basic Industry and the Cuba Petroleo enterprise have just confirmed that the Puerto Escondido well No. 4 has recently been perforated, studied, and has begun producing. The well, which is approximately 1,800 meters deep, and is located in the oil deposit of Puerto Escondido, 75 km east of Havana, has been perforated by Cuba Petroleo in cooperation with the French company, Geo-Petrol. It produces approximately 800 barrels a day of high-density crude, similar to the crude obtained in Varadero. The production level is not extraordinary, but this new oil deposit in Havana Province confirms the oil potential of Cuba's north coast.

New wells will be perforated in the area in 1995 to develop this layer, and in addition, deeper wells will be drilled to eventually discover new layers with lighter oils.

### Venezuela's Chavez Addresses FEU Ceremony

*PA2112192394 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0143 GMT 16 Dec 94*

[Speech by Lieutenant Colonel Hugo Chavez, retired, leader of Venezuela's 200 Revolutionary Bolivarian Movement, at a ceremony in Chavez's honor held by the Federation of University Students, FEU, at the University of Havana in Havana on 14 December—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Commander in Chief of the Cuban Revolution and President of the Republic of Cuba; Mr. Rector of this prestigious university; Mr. President of the Federation of University Students; Mr. President of the Simon Bolivar House; dear compatriots university professors; students of Cuba of this land of Marti and this land of Bolivar; comrades in arms: First, please accept a warm and heartfelt Bolivarian embrace from the land of Venezuela, for which we harbor such deep feelings and to which we have committed our entire life.

Last night in that [word indistinct] but meaningful trip to Cuba, a Cuban compatriot asked me on the plane if this was my first trip to Cuba. I told her yes, but at the same time I also told her something I wish to repeat at this emotional and sensitive moment: This is the first time I come in person to Cuba, because the youth of

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Latin America have come to Cuba many times in our dreams. [applause] In our dreams, we, the Bolivarian soldiers of the Venezuelan Army, have come to Cuba several times. Years ago we decided to devote our lives to a revolutionary project, a project for change.

I thank you for this new homage offered by President Fidel Castro and all of you. As I told him last night when I was immensely and pleasantly surprised to be met by Fidel Castro himself at Jose Marti International Airport, I do not deserve this honor. I hope to be worthy of such honor in the coming years and months. [applause] I say the same to all of you, dear Latin American Cuban compatriots. Someday we hope to be able to come to Cuba ready to extend our arms and to feed each other with a Latin American revolutionary project, imbued as we have been for centuries with the idea of an integrated Spanish American, Latin American, and Caribbean continent, as one single nation that we form.

We are moving along that path, and as Aquiles Maceo said of Jose Marti: We feel we belong to all times and all places. And we roam like the wind after that seed, which fell one day here and in this fertile ground sprouted and grew, as we have always said. And I do not say this here in Cuba because I am in Cuba or because, as they say in my land, on the Venezuelan plains, I feel brave and supported. We have said it in the Venezuelan Army even before becoming insurgent soldiers. We said it in the rooms, in the military classrooms of Venezuela: Cuba is a bastion of Latin American dignity and as such we must view it, as such we must follow it, and as such we must feed it. [applause]

A hurricane of emotions, ideas, passions, and sentiments is crossing my mind right now, of course, and lingering in my soul as a soldier, a revolutionary, and a Latin American. So many things are surging through my mind, so many memories. I have dreamed of being in Cuba so many times, and here I am at last. Among the many things coming to my mind now, as I am here in this main assembly hall of the University of Havana, is that this university, by the way, I was told by an illustrious compatriot here, was attended by Andres Eloy Blanco with his poems and dreams.

Cuban President Commander Castro, I recall going to Jare Prison, but more importantly, I recall when I was there that I reread your stirring defense and fiery words in "History Will Absolve." I also read in that jail "The Kernel of Corn," which holds the interview you gave to Commander Tomas Borge at that time. I compared all the many ideas presented in both publications, which are separated by almost 40 years, and as a soldier in captivity was able to draw several conclusions. One is that it is worthwhile to uphold the banner of dignity and our principles. We have to do so even at the risk of being left alone. We have to keep our sails aloft even in unfavorable winds. We have to maintain a position of dignity. We read and reread those statements in jail. It was food for thought when we were prisoners, and it was and continues to be food for rebels.

Speaking of rebels, I spotlight the comments made by the president of the Federation of Students and by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro about the Miami summit. That summit was not made for rebels, and, thus, the Cubans were not there. We too cannot enter U.S. territory. We were banned from entering. I said this statement once in Colombia and repeat it now again in Cuba with added force and enthusiasm: It is an honor as rebel soldiers not to be allowed to enter U.S. territory. [applause]

Undoubtedly, interesting things are occurring in Latin America and the Caribbean. Undoubtedly, Pablo Neruda, the famous poet and writer who is ours because he is from our America, was absolutely right when he wrote that Bolivar awakens every 100 years when our people awaken. We are, undoubtedly, in an era when nations are awakening and arising with enthusiasm and confidence. Undoubtedly, Mr. President, the trend you have mentioned or announced in "The Kernel of Corn" interview, which I mentioned, is felt and perceived throughout all Latin America.

We are, undoubtedly, in a bicentennial era. We have had the audacity to found a movement within the ranks of the Venezuelan Army, because we were sick of so much corruption. We swore we would work to become a revolutionary leader and to dedicate our lives to the revolutionary struggle in Venezuela and now in the Latin American sphere. We have started to do just that on the bicentennial of Bolivar's birth.

Next year marks the centenary of the death of Jose Marti. Next year marks the bicentennial of the birth of Marshal Antonio Jose de Sucre. Next year marks the bicentennial of the rebellion and death of Zambo Jose Leonardo Chirino along the coast of Coro in Venezuela, which is, by the way, the land of the ancestors of the illustrious Antonio Maceo.

It is as if time was calling on us and entrusting us. Now is, undoubtedly, a time to tread again on paths of hope and struggle, something which we are doing after 10 years of intense work within the Venezuelan Army and after one rebellion and then another. We are now involved in revolutionary work in three main directions that I will summarize for you so as to invite you to establish exchanges, to establish specific ties of unity, work, and construction.

First, we are determined to hoist an ideological flag that is appropriate and suitable for our Venezuelan land, our Latin American land; that is, the Bolivarian flag. This ideological work involves a revision of history and the ideas born in Venezuela and on this continent 200 years ago, when we saw the emergence of the first project of a nation, not only Venezuelan but Latin American, a project which Francisco de Miranda called Colon Bella and which Bolivar embraced later and called Colombia, which we know today as Gran Colombia, the Bolivarian dream.

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In that attempt to find our roots in history, we designed and presented to the national and international community the idea inspired in a three-root tree, as we call it, not only the root of Bolivarian thought. Simon Bolivar called for Latin American unity to present a developed nation against the plans of the North, which was already trying to clutch its claws in our Latin American land. Bolivar proposed in Angostura the need to include, besides the four classic powers of Montesquieu, a moral power.

Bolivar, those Bolivaran ideas called for in the Bolivian Constitution the need to establish a fifth power, the electoral power. Bolivar, from his grave, close to Santa Marta, said the military must defend social guarantees. Bolivar said the best government system is the one that brings more happiness to its people, more political stability and social security.

We have united that deep root, that Bolivarian root, because we believe in.... [pauses] It is not that we united it, but it is united by time, by history itself, to the Robinson root, which was named after Samuel Robinson, after Simon Rodriguez, of whom we Latin Americans known very little, because we were told at an early age he was Bolivar's teacher.

And there he lies, frozen in history. The crazy eccentric who died of old age, wandering around Latin America like the wind. Simon Rodriguez was the man who gave Simon Bolivar most of his revolutionary ideal. Simon Rodriguez was the one who encouraged middle class Americans to stage two revolutions: a political revolution and an economic revolution. Simon Rodriguez called upon the people to build a social economic model and a... [15-second break in reception] He could not go on living a menial life. He had to be original instead. He spoke out for people to invent or fail. In the eyes of the bourgeoisie he was that crazy old man who, old and neglected, went about gathering children. He said children are the stones with which to build the republics of tomorrow. Come to me, that I might polish the stones to make that building strong and shiny. He was that same old man who, as he stood on the edge of the grave, made candles. Someone asked him: Why are you making candles, master? He answered: I see no other way to show America the light. Here, then, is another deeply fundamental philosophical root of our ideological platform.

There is also a more recent root: the Zamora root taken from the general of a sovereign people, General Ezequiel Zamora. Zamora was the leader of the federal revolution in Venezuela. Zamora was the general who wore two hats: a peasant cap and a military cap. He explained this as Mao Zedong once did in other words and in another time and another place. You know what Mao said much better than we do. Mao wrote that the people are to the army what fish are to water. Not only do you know this but you apply it. [six-second break in reception] [applause]

We will be leaving in a few hours. I say we are, because Lieutenant Cristobal Romero is with me here. He is an airborne lieutenant in the Venezuelan Army. [applause] He is a rebel and a former political prisoner. My Cuban comrades in arms, despite all the efforts we have seen here, we are leaving convinced that [words indistinct]. To paraphrase the title of a fine work by an observer of the Panamanian issue, you are like fish in the sea. As soldiers, we are on that same quest. Today we depart stronger in our conviction that the Venezuelan Army needs to be what it used to be: an army of the people, an army to defend what Bolivar called social rights.

Ezequiel Zamora, whom I just mentioned as the third part of the tree with three roots, was ahead of his time in his ideas, which Mao would explain later. Zamora explained that the peasant cap he wore represented the people of Venezuela and the military cap represented the army. The two should be united with the people to be triumphant in the federal revolution, which was in vogue at the time in Venezuela. Ezequel Zamora cradled the Bolivarian project, but he did during that same federal war. They buried the dreams of the poor Venezuelan peasants, who were again betrayed after the war of independence, along with Zamora.

Our flow of work obviously has its complement throughout Latin America. We... [one-second break in reception] Venezuelan adopted three Venezuelans as the basis for our ideological project, determined to resist the thesis that comes from the North. Someone told me a while ago that all bad things come from the North. Someone said the theses of the end of history, of the last man, of the (?technotronic) hour, of ideologies are no longer useful and are outdated. No. We resist believing this. We do not accept this. And we have adopted the aforementioned three symbolic figures.

A Panamanian officer, who was still in hiding after four months, a Panamanian capitan whom I asked one evening at the University of Panama why was he still in hiding, told me: Commander, I am still in hiding because [words indistinct] and an arrest warrant for murder has been issued against me. Now I ask: Where are the arrest warrants for the thousands who died in the Panama invasion.

That Panamanian officer told me: Commander, you have your god, who is Bolivar. We have our saint, who is Omar Torrijos.

Therefore, throughout the Americas there are Marti and more recently Omar Torrijos and Velasco Alvarado, a symbol of the soldier for the people in Peru and the immense experience of the Inca [words indistinct). [applause]

In the Southern Cone like an dawn in Montevideo a few months ago, a secret envoy came to me with a letter of active duty officers of the Uruguayan Army, who are called the Artiguist Soldiers. He brought me a present containing the political throught of Artigas, San Martin,

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and so many other Latin Americans, like Sandino. I want to take this opportunity to say I also feel very honored to have met and embraced Commander Daniel Ortega of the Nicaraguan revolution, who is here in Havana as you all know. Sandino, Mariategui; they are the forefathers of a nation-building project: one nation comprising all Latin Americans and Caribbean citizens.

This is a first flow of work. My commander, it would be very appropriate to strengthen that ideological work next year, the 100th anniversary of Jose Marti, that duo of Bolivar and Marti. This should be done to bolster the emotion and pride of Latin Americans.

The other flow of work for which we also need to improve ties with the peoples of our America is the organizational work. And while in jail we received many documents on how the Cuban people organized themselves after the victory of the revolution. We are determined to organize in Venezuela a large social movement: the 200 Revolutionary Bolivarian Movement and beyond. Next year we plan to create the Bolivarian National Front. And we are convoking students, peasants, Indians, and retired soldiers, because regrettably active duty soldiers in Venezuela remain gagged.

The political system, or Venezuelan politicians, hope to always maintain soldiers who are mute, deaf, and blind to the national tragedy. We are urging soldiers on the streets, intellectuals, fishermen, dreamers, all in general to form that great social front to face the challenge of the transformation of Venezuela.

In Venezuela, no one knows what might happen at any given time. We for instance are entering an election year, 1995 [words indistinct] in Venezuela another illegal and illegitimate electoral process. It is marked by an abstention we believe may reach 90 percent, on average. In other words, 90 percent of Venezuelans wil not go to the polls. They do not believe in the message of politicians; they hardly believe in any political party.

With the Bolivarian Movement, with the Bolivarian National Front, we aspire to polarize Venezuela this year between those participating in the electoral process—and there are honest people there too, and we respect them although we do not believe in the electoral process—who represent one pole and those representing the other pole, which is the one we are going to nourish, push for, and reinforce. It consists of going out into the streets with the people to call for elections for a national constituent assembly to redefine the fundamental bases of the republic that have collapsed. Venezuela's legal, political, economic, and even moral bases have collapsed. This will not be fixed with minor corrections. As Bolivar used to say, political gangrene is not cured with palliatives. The gangrene in Venezuela is absolute and total. Someone asked me a few months ago: Why do you not let the democratic system—the so-called democratic system in Venezuela—mature? I replied—and this brings to mind a delicious mango candy I tasted here in Havana—by citing the example of the mango, a fruit that goes to waste in Venezuela because we do not know how to take advantage of it. The mango is ripe when it is green, but a rotten mango will never ripen. We have to pick up the seed of the rotten mango and plant it so a new plant can sprout. That is what is happening in Venezuela today. [applause] That system has no way of recovering by itself. [applause] And we... [pauses] I will use a popular saying by the people from my town, on the Venezuelan plains. I am not going to say it just because here I am emboldened and supported; I have said this in Venezuela, I have said in the Caracas Ateneo, with which you are familiar, I have said this to the news media, television, the few commercial programs that invite me. I have said this in front of the Palace of Government on one occasion after I left jail.

We do not rule out the use of weapons in Venezuela. We continue—and this is something the government's own surveys show—to have a favorable rating of over 80 percent among the Venezuelan military, the Army, Navy, Air Force, and the National Guard even, which is a force that this system concocted and reinforced. It is a like the regime's Praetorian guard. There are good people there too, as well as in the police, the Internal Policy Directorate, the political police.

We have a force there, and we nourish and care for it, even though the boys are being persecuted everywhere. To name Bolivar—for a Venezuelan officer to name Bolivar in a garrison or in a speech—makes that officer suspect. In spite of all that, we have a force there.

Despite all of this, we have a force there. Despite and besides all of this, we have high percentage of Venezuelans, particularly that (?60) percent, dear friends, of Venezuelans who are living in critical poverty.

It is unbelievable but true—in Venezuela $200 billion disappeared in 20 years. Castro himself asked: Where is this money? It is in foreign accounts held by practically all those who have been in power in Venezuela. Civilians and military got rich under the umbrella of power. We have a immense commitment to that immense majority of Venezuelans.

By having these two forces, you will understand that we are willing to go all out to secure the necessary change in Venezuela. This is why we do not to rule out [words indistinct] to use the weapons of the people who are in the forces to pave the way if this political system decides, as it appears to have decided, to once again [word indistinct] and seek ways to manipulate and deceive the people. We are asking for a constituent assembly. Next year, as I told you, we will push for these solutions as a strategic resource in the short term.

The third thing we are working on [words indistinct] these words, this greeting, this passion that moves me tonight, is a long- term strategic project in which Cubans have and would have a great deal to contribute and much to discuss with us. It is a project with a 20- to 40-year horizon, a sovereign economic model. We do not want to

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continue under colonial sovereignty. A complementary economic model—Venezuela has immense energy resources, for example. No Latin American or Caribbean nation should care about Europe's destiny. Why? Latin America has Venezuela, with immense energy resources. Why should Venezuela continue to export 2 million of barrels of crude per day to developed nations? In the way that 500 years ago they used to take raw materials, they now continue to take it away.

This is a project that we have laid before the Venezuelan people under the name of the Simon Bolivar National Project, but with our arms extended to the Latin American and Caribbean continent. We have been in contact with some centers for study in Panama, Colombia, Ecuador, Uruguay, Argentina, Chile, and Cuba. This is a project in which it is not deemed daring, from a political point of view, to think about of an association of Latin American states. [Words indistinct] to think of this; it is the original plan of our liberator. Why should we continue separated [word indistinct] in the political sphere and in the goals of that project, that is not any old project. It is at least 200 years old. How many cultural and economic experiences have we suffered in this economic war in which Cuba for all intents and purposes lives in sports, health, attention to the people, attention to mankind, who is the first leader of the nation, the [word indistinct] of the nation.

Therefore in that area, in that third arm of the transformational project [words indistinct] in the long term, we stretch our arms out to the experience, [words indistinct] the men and women of Cuba who for years have been thinking about and working for this continental project.

To conclude for now, we cordially invite you, as we have already done, to an encounter in Santa Marta. We have agreed to meet in Santa Marta, Colombia, on 17 December.

We hope to start preparing there. It is going to be the first preparatory meeting for the Second Amphictyonic of Panama which we hope to hold in Panama in 1996, 170 years after the first congress which, by the way, was sabotaged by the North Americans. We hope to hold a third congress when the U.S. Army withdraws its last soldier from the Panama Canal, which is Bolivarian territory, in 1999.

Ours would be a permanent congress or league where Latin Americans can come together to discuss our mishaps and our future. Our future, as that great Uruguayan revolutionary and writer, Eduardo Galeano, has asserted, cannot be a curse; it is a challenge. The century that lies ahead is a century of hope. It is our century. It is the century for the resurrection of Bolivar's, Marti's, and Latin America's dreams.

My dear friends, you have all honored me tonight by sitting here to hear the thoughts of a soldier and a Latin American who has devoted himself now and will do so forever to the cause of the revolution of this, our America. A huge Bolivarian hug for all of you. [applause]

### Robaina Meets Egyptian President, Foreign Minister

*FL2212001194 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 21 Dec 94*

[From the "National Radio News"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina transmitted a message from Commander in Chief Fidel Castro to his Egyptian counterpart, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. The message underscores the importance of strengthening economic ties between Cuba and Egypt so that this sector can achieve the same level of relations as that achieved in the political sphere. Robaina also met with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Mahmud Musa, to whom he expressed Cuba's interest in continuing bilateral relations. He also invited him to visit Havana. 'Amr Mahmud Musa accepted the invitation and agreed to visit Cuba during the first few months of 1995.

### Tourism Increases Colombian Flights, Spanish Hotels

*FL2112191394 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 21 Dec 94*

[From the "Doing Radio" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] (Ruben de Osorio), regional manager of the Intercontinental S.A. Airlines, stated, in Havana, that there is a demand for Cuba on the Colombian tourist market. In November, Intercontinental S.A. established two regular flights to Cuba. Osorio went on to say that, in response to the increase of passengers flying to and from Cuba, the airline would add a third regular flight on Tuesdays in addition to the two traditional flights of Wednesday and Sunday.

Meanwhile, in Ciego de Avila, the Spanish-Cuban Enterprise Paraiso Cayo Coco S.A. and an entity of the Ministry of Construction signed a contract for the erection of the second hotel in Cayo Coco which will have a total of 726 rooms. The Spanish-Cuban enterprise is funded by the Cubanacan Corporation and the Spanish hotel chain Guitart Hoteles, which intends to build 3,000 rooms in the northern zone of Ciego de Avila.

### Correspondents Debate Padded Payrolls

*FL1712180494 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 15 Dec 94*

["Straight Talk" program with host Juan Carlos Roque Garcia and guests, Eloy Concepcion and Renato Recio]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Roque] Today we will discuss the problem of padded payrolls. You all know that we need to rationalize surplus personnel, so we will air this issue.

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[Recio] We have discussed this issue many times before, but since it is a pressing topic, we will address it again today. Resolution 6 will be implemented in 1995, when the first steps of a more precise policy will be taken. However I want to warn you—because it has been announced and the unions have asked for it—that Resolution 6 should be implemented gradually, slowly, and on a case-by-case basis. Rationalization of personnel needs to be done where it will have a positive impact on the economy. It is not intended to create unemployment or the hardships that workers who lose their jobs must go through without a positive, specific, visible goal.

[Roque] This does not mean that padded payrolls will continue to grow. It is true that nobody wants to be in the shoes of those workers who will lose their jobs, but everyone should realize that the problem of padded payrolls is a disaster in Cuba.

[Concepcion] It is interesting that the implementation of this resolution... [changes thought] you have stressed the need to solve the problem of padded payrolls, to rationalize surplus workers. I believe this is the right word because most of our work places have excess workers.

[Roque] And why do we have surplus workers? This should be the first thing we ask ourselves.

[Concepcion] Because of a bureaucratic scheme that we have had for many years, which is common in a protective state. I was telling you earlier that rationalization will begin in state organizations. In addition, we need to observe the process to make sure that rationalization includes managers as well as workers. Workplaces or state organizations that currently have 300 workers and 30 managers cannot rationalize workers while retaining the 30 managers. As Renato just said, the process must be equal for all, gradual—and yet, it must have a positive economic impact.

[Roque] How can this rationalization be implemented without going to extremes, producing a large number of unemployed people in Cuba? Where would those workers go?

[Recio] I believe the problem lies in the gradual and specific implementation of the resolution. For instance, it should be easier to rationalize in a province with obvious employment sources, such as tourism, where more construction is taking place, and new employment is created. Such a province could rationalize more frequently and in more work places than in other provinces where no other jobs are available.

While we are discussing this topic, I would like to add that I believe it is possible to create new jobs in many provinces, where there are many needs to fulfill, many things to accomplish, and where there are no excuses for passivity. Likewise, I believe these should be jobs in small places, which produce on a small scale—we used to call them [chinchales] in the past—where three or four people produce things with somewhat basic equipment. We could even go back to the [chinchal]. The essential issue is for those who are working to earn their salaries, producing at least some social benefit as well.

[Roque] Some places have already begun to get rid of surplus workers, However, the full impact of Resolution 6 implementation will be felt beginning January 1995. Cuba must use intelligence when implementing this resolution.

[Concepcion] This is not an easy problem. It is one of the difficult problems Cuba will have in 1995. It is not easy for several reasons: When a worker is left behind after many years in a job—for economic and other reasons we have mentioned, including ridding state organizations of bureaucracy—he usually disagrees with the decision.

Resolution 6 addresses the handling of these cases, and Renato rightly insists on approaching the cases individually. We cannot use the practices of neoliberal politics in capitalist countries, where people are thrown into the streets for no discernible reason.

In addition, it is hard because of a mentality problem. Unfortunately, people in Cuba do not like agricultural and construction jobs. They take offense even at the suggestion of these possibilities. We have grown used to that....

[Roque, interrupting] These are always perceived as punishment.

[Concepcion] Indeed, therefore, when you tell people who have been working in an office or in another easy bureaucratic job receiving a salary disproportionate to what they produce, that there are jobs in the agricultural sector, they perceive this as a punishment. They do not realize that the country needs those workers or that they could receive more benefits taking those jobs, compared to the minimum salary of 140 pesos they currently receive in an office.

[Roque] I noted earlier that many will get hurt; it will not be easy for them. I agree with Eloy when he says that we need to be careful and with Renato's suggestion that we study the cases individually, however, how can we help workers during the first months of their new situation? What can we do?

[Recio] Resolution 6 considers a benefit system based on the number of years in a job. But the benefits will not last forever. This is important because if people were to receive benefits forever, they would lose their motivation to seek another job. People with more years on the job would receive benefits for a longer period and can be unemployed longer. However, there is still a limit. A time comes when they need to find another job; they cannot get used to living on state aid.

The big question is whether or not these jobs are going to be available. We must observe this in the context of the evolution of the Cuban economy. We were talking about

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padded payrolls, and yes, there are many padded payrolls. However, there are many unemployed people because the economy has diminished and enterprises are working at 30-40 percent of their power, especially in the industrial sector. But with increased movement, this situation will end.

There had been a similar trend in the past. Many places had an excess of certain workers and a shortage of others. There were jobs available in the latter places. During rationalization, the same enterprise could find positions for some people in sectors other than the basic ones.

Eloy was referring to a major source of employment in Cuba, which will become more appealing in the future despite the prevailing prejudice against such rough jobs as agriculture and construction because the Cuban economy will provide the best possible living conditions and compensation for sugarcane and all other agricultural producers. In addition, the cooperative system, which has been strained, can provide a high income for these workers when the economy is restored.

[Roque] Before the end of the program we should stress how Cuba differs from other countries in which they tell you good-bye, and you are gone.

[Concepcion] I pointed out problems of mentality and the habits created through the years because it could happen, and has happened during past rationalizations, that perfectly qualified people, physically and culturally fit to do some kind of work in a sugarcane complex where many workers are needed, could afford in the past to reject those jobs. Resolution 6 will put a stop to this situation. There is always going to be a small number of people who will reject some jobs and will seek only what is convenient for them. Agriculture is going through important structural changes, such as the creation of cooperatives. People who participate in them will receive economic benefits, such as higher salaries. Sugarcane mills will also benefit. Qualified people who will not take these jobs should go their own way. We should say this clearly.

[Roque] It is time to really earn your keep.

[Recio] The state is willing to protect people in a difficult situation, however, it is not possible to protect those who do not wish to take jobs. Jobs do not come from heaven. Cuba needs to have jobs in order to offer them.

[Concepcion] What I was saying is that we have grown used to certain habits. We want the jobs that best suit us—in the shade, or under the sun, whatever suits us. Many just want to go to other jobs as a means of traveling—to go from one office to another....

[Roque, interrupting] Sometimes, if it means traveling far from home, they also refuse to go.

[Concepcion] Perhaps they will not go to Cayo Coco because of the mosquitoes.

[Roque] The topic of rationalization of surplus workers is too complex. We need to broach it again because when a measure so important as Resolution 6 is implemented, it creates new issues, proposals, and concerns.

[Recio] And we have not addressed self-employment, which is another important source of employment.

[Roque] That is a whole different ballgame. We will broach that topic on another program.

### Correspondents Discuss Artificial Profit

*FL1912020294 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 16 Dec 94*

["Straight Talk" program with host Juan Carlos Roque Garcia and guest Osvaldo Rodriguez]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Roque] We could entitle today's program, "Easy Profitability and the Art of Masking Costs." We will discuss these two aspects of the Cuban economy with Osvaldo Rodriguez. Osvaldo, I would say these are two topics in one.

[Rodriguez] I believe they could be two topics, but in the end, they converge. I am not going to attack price increases, but perhaps someone has realized that the art of masking costs, or the easier way of achieving profitability, is precisely by raising prices.

[Roque] You of course do not agree with raising prices.

[Rodriguez] I do not agree. However, I am not against higher prices that are the result of economic measures the country needs, and which we at Straight Talk have supported, to restore national finances.

[Roque] These prices and measures were not arbitrary, and we have discussed them. However, there are many crazy prices in the streets.

[Rodriguez] I want to discuss those crazy prices. They are the ones I will attack. Eloy Concepcion and Renato Recio recently addressed this topic. I heard them and was thinking: I am not going to contradict them, but perhaps I will extend the discussion to cover some angles from my point of view.

[Roque] Contradictions are understandable. We do not need to agree.

[Rodriguez] Of course, we often disagree, but I am not going to disagree with them today. However, I would like to alert people—not only leaders and managers, but people who receive services, workers in factories, everyone: Sometimes managers want to show a profit in any way they can. Currently, everyone has been asked to become more efficient in 1995, and many enterprises that are not profitable will be closed.

But profitability at the expense of what? This is what I want to discuss. Profitability cannot come from raising prices. That would be the easiest way to be efficient. Suppose you are inefficient selling your products at a

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certain price; you therefore add whatever you are losing to this price and achieve efficiency and profits in this simple way. Anybody can see that this is the easiest way, even a four-year-old child—well that may be an exaggeration, but a seven-year-old who has learned to add knows this. So businessmen are not doing anything new when they increase prices.

Likewise, those increased prices completely mask inefficiency. Anyone could participate and see where efficiency comes from. The restaurant around the corner could be selling orange juice at 1.5 pesos, and would of course sell it all because orange juice supply is low and there is a great demand. However, what is the production cost of this orange juice? Perhaps it costs 20 cents, and they are being super-efficient; but more than likely, it costs one peso to produce the juice, and they want to mask this high cost by doctoring prices.

[Roque] Many enterprises are committing this serious mistake, and I am concerned. Are they going crazy? Do they not have a strict control? Do they not have to meet demands?

[Rodriguez] I could say yes because there are rules and auditing to control price fixing, there are organizations that should be exerting control. However, my answer to your question is no because the controls are lax as a result of the reorganization of the national economy, which is taking place in the midst of the current crisis.

Many enterprises have the noble goal of stabilizing their finances, so sometimes they look the other way. We are thus creating a monster that will eventually explode. One may be able to mask costs. However, when supply increases....

[Roque] Prices will go down.

[Rodriguez] That is correct.

[Roque] And those businesses will no longer be profitable.

[Rodriguez] Sure enough. You realize what is going to happen; you have just said what will happen. We are therefore simply creating a Frankestein, which will, some time in the future, die. Meanwhile, there will be apparent profitability due to concealed costs.

The state is acting wisely when the increments in pricing go not to the enterprises, but to the state budget. This is an intelligent step so enterprises will not show improved economic efficiency through higher pricing.

[Roque] A few days ago we were discussing the need to defend consumers who are directly affected by these prices.

[Rodriguez] Of course. I will point out two cases that contradict each other and have personally affected us reporters. I will mention them here because higher prices in one of the cases was not intended to take currency out of circulation. The organization that catered to reporters and other participants during a recent event charged 15 pesos for lunch. Everyone knows that the lunch price in Cuba is 3.5 pesos. However, this was the second event I attended that has charged 15 pesos for a lunch, the quality of which was far from worthy of such price—it was not worth that price at all. However, I can also mention the opposite side of the coin. The convention center, which hosts the most important events in Cuba charges much less—lunch costs seven pesos, which is less than half the price—and its excellent quality could justify a higher price. I am not calling for a price increase because we all know that the money collected in the cash register of one enterprise goes into the cash register of the other enterprise. But I ask myself, what do these catering businesses want—to make a profit from another business' loss? This indicates that it is not only the consumer in the street who is being taken advantage of. They are also taking advantage of circumstances such as these events.

[Roque] That is an example of improving profitability the easy way, or an indication of the art of masking costs, which you were addressing. We need to reach a conclusion.

[Rodriguez] We could conclude by saying that each business needs to be changed from within. This could sound like a pat phrase, but it is a reality because the workers, not only the directors and managers, know where the costs lie.

Sometimes I have gone places—I could mention some foreign currency restaurants as examples—where they have padded payrolls. However, I recently visited the restaurant complex on 15th and 42d Streets, with Bartolo, president of the Culinary Association, who was showing me around, and I saw one of these little restaurants where 28 tables were being served by only two people. The efficiency of the kitchen, which also had only two workers, was amazing. Undoubtedly, costs are low in such restaurants, and the pesos or dollars collected yield a profit without the need to doctor prices. I looked at the menu and the prices were not doctored, while other restaurants in Havana have higher prices without the benefit of such excellent service.

[Roque] In Cuban pesos.

[Rodriguez] Yes, in Cuban pesos. However, the only way to reduce prices is by trying to be more efficient at a personal level in the first place. For instance, we should try to get the most from the equipment in the industry. Also we should try to spend as little as possible because there is waste. There are some places with an outrageous number of computers, many of which are not working, but each worker has a computer on his desk. I am not against computers; they are good; everyone should have a computer, but they should make the best use of them.

In addition, you see some places where everyone has a cellular phone, which are very expensive. Other places have a shocking number of vehicles, a high cost in fuel,

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or a waste of spare parts. Well, it is time to put our feet on the ground. We are facing a critical situation, and to be able to overcome it, we need to improve our economic efficiency first.

### Minister Views 'Campaign of Disinformation'

*PA1712133994 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 0951 GMT 14 Dec 94*

["Exclusive" article by Culture Minister Armando Hart Davalos: "Campaigns Against Cuba: Fiction and Reality"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As everyone knows, an intense and systematic campaign of disinformation against our country has been waged in the capitals of several countries in Europe and the two Americas. This campaign has been going on for several decades and, of course, has created an unfavorable image of the revolution.

These campaigns centered on our alliance with the Soviet Union in the past and tied in with the intensive anti-Communist propaganda that reached its climax in the 1980's. This propaganda was based on the assumption the Cuban Revolution would collapse after the Soviet Union disappeared.

Both the U.S. embargo against Cuba and the anti-Cuba campaigns increased thereafter. It is impossible to find a more inhuman policy against a country that strictly meets its international obligations and responsibilities and does not shrink from talking with the aggressor country based on unrestricted respect for Cuba's dignity and national independence. Cowardice and cynicism reach their highest level when it is said we are a socialist country, because the Soviet Union in the past and now the People's Republic of China and Vietnam have been and are treated differently.

In the past few years—five years have passed since the fall of the Berlin Wall and more than three years since the Soviet Union was dissolved—this propaganda became more hysterical, illogical, and inconsistent. This is an indication of the enemies of our country's anger and frustration over seeing that Cuba did not share the fate of the old socialist countries in Europe. Why? This is a question they are unable to answer, because they are unfamiliar with the history or nature of the Cuban society.

They deny the Cuban Revolution even the smallest things. They lack the shrewdness or necessary self-control to dissect what they call "the Cuban issue." This point is why they go wrong with us again and again and encourage what we could describe as the anti-Cuba fiction, which emerges as a distortion of the reality revealed in the form of an upside down image.

For this purpose, they use a propaganda device that serves to portray white as black and black as white. This is an old reactionaries trick that distorts or conceals, through a false image, the creative facts and possibilities present in true life.

This very old way in which the alienation phenomenon studied by Marx presents itself is multiplied by the new and refined social and techniques of mass communication that have attained an enormous development. The specialized language command and the powerful media at the disposal of privileged groups are systematically used to disseminate distorted reports and messages that serve their self-centered interests.

Let's take the bull by the horns. Let's consider the mystification of the terms humanism and democracy. The meaning of these two terms has been established by the civilized North by negating the majority of the population the social benefits to which they are entitled. This is from where they have derived their political schemes. Anyone who jumps over their institutional and political formulas in the search for a genuinely universal humanism is accused of violating the sacrosanct dogma.

Multipartyism, bourgeois representative democracy, and other similar outlines are imposed as immutable models to qualify a country as democratic and a policy as humanist. This is a self-proclaimed liberal dogmatism that involves an insurmountable contradiction for this very reason.

A popular humanism, which avowedly defends the right of the poor and exploited, that is, the majority of the population, is labeled undemocratic. Such is the case of Cuba. Our country represents a humanism very different from that advocated by those who proclaim this propaganda; therefore, it would be appropriate to debate which is the genuinely human humanism—pardon the redundancy—theirs or that of the Cuban Revolution.

The difference can be observed if we take into consideration that the principles of liberty, equality, and fraternity proclaimed since the times of the French Revolution are repeatedly and systematically violated by the dominating social systems. Such systems have been applying these principles in a limited and distorted manner, a fact we have considered very seriously. The anti-Cuba fiction is based on this distortion.

Our idea of democracy is based on the reality of all of the revolution's works and actions. At best, people say: Let us keep education and public health but change everything else. There is much more contained in the work conducted over the past 35 years that we refuse to change. In addition, only a pragmatic and fragmentary prescription—and, therefore, a prescription unrelated to practical life—could separate the country's extraordinary educational and health work from the essence of our large revolutionary conquests, all of which are represented in one key idea: socialism.

The Cuban revolutionary project has a universally valid humanism, because it centers on workers and the poor. A

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Jose Marti expression ingrained in our Constitution reads as follows: "I want the first law of the Republic to be the Cubans' worship of the full dignity of men." Those who want to live at the expense of others do not accept this humanism. They run around driven by an untamed hatred of true democracy and of the poor and exploited people of the world.

The anti-Cuban myth took root in certain countries amid a small number of people because of the absence of democracy. However, the feelings about Cuba that predominate in the bosom of the masses are very different in many nations of the world.

This becomes evident when one comes in contact with men and women from institutions and sectors in countries in which this propaganda is being launched, because here one sees that the anti-Cuban myth has not been able to sway thousands and thousands of people who view Cuba with respect, even if they disagree with our political and philosophical positions. Even those who disagree with Cuban philosophies and policies cannot ignore the prestige that our country has at the international level. Those who ignore this are overlooking the most evident facts of our reality.

This reality manifests itself at events of such magnitude as the recently concluded World Solidarity Conference, which, by the way, was ignored by the media in certain countries. This reality also is displayed in the UN resolution against the blockade on Cuba. This resolution had only two opposing votes: the United States and Israel. It garnered an overwhelming majority and made U.S. leaders realize their government remains isolated in the implementation of this blockade.

The most noteworthy example is the admiration with which Fidel is welcomed in all of the countries he has visited. Even his adversaries are usually impressed by his presence. No one can stop considering him a great anti-imperialistic, democratic, and popular figure of the contemporary world. The noble aspirations of human redemption of the 20th century are synthesized in him. He is its heir, interpreter, and greatest proponent.

Nevertheless, this does not just happen to Fidel. Many of us—those who have represented the Cuban Revolution by attending international forums and by meeting with academicians; students; intellectual, political, and social leaders and personalities; and common townspeople from countless places—also have felt this understanding and sympathy for Cuba and its accomplishments.

There could be certain discrepancies and questions on the most heated issues—issues on which we believe there is not much information. Certain newspapers and ruling circles committed to the dominant system are not fond of Cuba, but the social rank and file of these countries maintain respect and even affection for Cuba.

Reality goes beyond these spheres of influence or those who are swayed by this propaganda, which is inversely proportionate to the distorted image. The dissemination, the propaganda, and the Cuban ideological debates abroad must display this contradiction between myth and reality.

We are calling on those who spread intrigues and rumors against Cuba to explain why these distortions have failed to penetrate large segments of their countries' populations, despite the disinformation prevailing on the Cuban situation. If they want, we can hold in our country or abroad a debate on humanism with serious people. Or is it that they are going to deny us the human right to defend our ideas?

There is an essential part of the problem that cannot be debated: With these distortions, they are trying to hide or erase the inhuman characteristic of the social systems prevailing in the contemporary world. This issue, however, deserves its own article. It is enough to recall that California's Proposition 187 represents the most straightforward violation of the legal and ethical principals that U.S. democracy and history are said to be based upon.

The spark has jumped from the Florida Straits to the Mexican-U.S. border. Be careful, the flames must be controlled quickly, because they could set the prairies on fire... and yet, this is not an issue with which to toy. Following the Cold War, it was clearly shown that the difference between rich and poor at the international level was rooted in the profound conflicts of identity, universality, and civilization. These paradoxical positions are evident in migration affairs. Let us begin discussing humanism and democracy by focusing on the migration issues that constitute one of the clues to the future.

### Santiago de Cuba Prepares for 31 Dec UJC Ceremony

*FL2012235294 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Dec 94*

[From the "National Radio News"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Santiago de Cuba is preparing to host a Union of Young Communists [UJC] activity on 31 December, a call for a productive nationwide uprising [levantamiento]. Correspondent Margarita Pecora has more details:

[Begin recording] [Pecora] Technicians at Santiago de Cuba's office for the restoration of museums and monuments are working on replacing the marble, repairing the light system, and refurbishing the surroundings of the impressive monument where on 31 December at 2300 local time, distinguished personalities of Santiago de Cuba, members of the UJC National Bureau, and veterans of the Revolution will begin a watch in honor of Jose Marti, a preamble to the ceremony proclaiming a youth uprising, which will be broadcast at midnight on Cuban television almost simultaneously with the traditional act of hoisting the flag from Old City Hall, located

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in front of Cespedes Park. Victoria Velazquez, first secretary of the UJC, spoke to us about this unique act, which will take place at the majestic monument complex where the remains of Jose Marti rest.

[Velazquez] From Marti's tomb, which I believe is the best place for it, we will call, as Fidel did, for a general strike. This will of course be very different from Fidel's. He called for a strike against the government. We will call for a strike in support of our government, our Revolution, and our commander in chief. [end recording]

## Bahamas

### Harbor Authorities Detain 8 Haitian Nationals

*FL2112141094 Nassau Bahamas Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 21 Dec 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Eight Haitian nationals were discovered on board a small vessel in Nassau's harbor last night. It is believed the illegal immigrants were heading from Haiti. They were taken to the (Roosevelt) police station and are expected to be turned over to immigration officials today. The group was spotted around 2315 last night.

## Cayman Islands

### Government Offers To Pay for Rafters' Return

*FL2112193694 Bridgetown CANA in English 1700 GMT 21 Dec 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] George Town, Grand Cayman, Dec. 21, CANA—The government of the Cayman Islands would be willing to offer some financial help with resettlement expenses to Cuban refugees willing to return home, a British Foreign and Commonwealth Office representative told Cuban refugee leaders. Tony Baldry, British Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London, told leaders of the refugee camp here that there is "absolutely no possibility" of U.S. visas to allow the Cubans directly into the U.S. Therefore, if the Cubans do not want to go to U.S.-run detention camps in Guantanamo or Panama, they should look at voluntarily returning to Cuba, he suggested.

While housing and employment for returning Cubans would be the responsibility of the Cuban government, the Cayman government "would be willing to offer some financial help with your settlement expenses," he said. That would include paying the cost of the air charter back to Cuba along with pocket money for each Cuban going back. The amount is believed to be about U.S.100 dollars, according to a government source that asked not to be identified. "The actual amount is still to be worked out," the source said.

Baldry told the Cubans that with a population of just 30,000 and a limited national budget, the Caymans "could not support their stay here indefinitely." He also said going to Britain was "not an option".

While he wanted the Cubans to make their own decisions about leaving, Baldry warned that if progress was not made voluntarily, "we shall have to find other means to resolve the problem, and these obviously include our insisting on your return to Cuba".

## Haiti

### 'Complete List' of CEP Members Announced

*FL2112215994 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1130 GMT 21 Dec 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] The formation of the Provisional Electoral Council [CEP], which is responsible for organizing and supervising the legislative, municipal, and local elections, was finally completed last night in Port-au—Prince. The list includes three members chosen by the executive power. The CEP is composed of nine members: three chosen by the executive, three by the Court of Cassation, and three by Parliament. The CEP members will elect their president within the next few days.

Haitian Prime Minister Smarck Michel recently pointed out that the elections would take place 14 to 22 weeks after the formation of the CEP. Among the three members chosen by the executive is Maurice Jeudy, a member of the Nationalistic Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti, PANPRA, one of the two rival branches of Haitian socialism. The two others chosen are Anselme Remy and Moliere Ladouceur. These three new names complete the list of those responsible for setting up structures for the elections. The CEP will first have the task of establishing an electoral law before the election deadline.

Following is the complete list of the nine CEP members: Anselme Remy, Maurice Jeudy, and Moliere Ladouceur for the executive; Marie-Laurence Jocelyn Lassegue, Delouis Domond, and Jean-Francis Merisier for the Parliament; and Leon Manus, Gerard Innocent, and Andre Cherilus for the Court of Cassation.

### Senate President Comments on CEP

*FL2112220294 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1130 GMT 21 Dec 94*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Senator Firmin Jean-Louis, president of the National Assembly, has adopted a position of principle on the creation of the Provisional Electoral Council [CEP], deploring its existence and criticizing the laxity of the Chamber of Deputies.

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] Our position of principle remains the same: We do not... [pauses] We prioritize... [pauses] We believe a Permanent Electoral Council should be formed. That would be the solution. But, in view of the fact that both the executive, through the president of the Republic, and the Chamber of Deputies have straightforwardly chosen to move toward a Provisional Electoral Council—the political parties met at the National Palace and almost unanimously

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supported it—we have no choice in the matter. We unwillingly admit that we are obliged to support consensual proposals they might make. [passage omitted] [end recording]

### PANPRA Threatens To Boycott Elections

*FL2112223494 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1130 GMT 21 Dec 94*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Serge Gilles, the Haitian socialist official, pounded the table with his fist and threatened not to participate in the forthcoming elections. He denounced the Court of Cassation's choice of Provisional Electoral Council [CEP] representatives as a blow to democracy. He announced that his party, the Nationalistic Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti, PANPRA, a member of international Socialism, demands new negotiations and the return to a spirit of compromise in the formation of the Provisional Electoral Council [CEP] as conditions for its participation in the next legislative, municipal, and local elections. This CEP, responsible for organizing and supervising the elections, must be comprised of nine members, including three chosen by the executive, three by the Court of Cassation, and three by the Parliament.

During a news conference held at PANPRA headquarters, Gilles expressed his party's anger as a reaction to Court of Cassation's choice of three persons from Gonaives, where the new president of the Court of Cassation, chosen by President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, was born.

Gilles and his assistant, Deputy Duly Brutus, agree that there is a strong probability that seven out of nine CEP members share pro- Aristide political leanings. [passage omitted]

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## Events, Statements Related to Chiapas Crisis Reported

### Armored Column Heads for Simojovel

*PA2112014794 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2340 GMT 20 Dec 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] Tuxtla Gutierrez (Chiapas), 20 Dec (EFE)—According to official sources, a column comprising four armored personnel carriers and more than 20 military and police transportation vehicles, was dispatched today to Simojovel, in Chiapas State.

The mobilization is part of an operation officially announced today in the Mexican capital that seeks to "guarantee the free movement of people and vehicles, as well as order and security for the civilian population," according to the Government Secretariat.

About 50 armed men, who claimed they were Zapatist guerrillas, yesterday occupied for more than 10 hours the Simojovel municipal offices, but according to what civilians told EFE, today there were no rebels.

The takeover of the municipal office in Simojovel, a village of about 7,000 inhabitants located in northern Chiapas, was part of a military campaign announced by the Zapatist Army of National Liberation (EZLN), in which they claimed to have broken through the circle of government troops.

The EZLN disclosed that four rebel columns had deployed on 8 December and had taken up positions in 38 of the 110 Chiapas municipalities, in southeast Mexico.

The guerrillas have announced that their troops have instructions to avoid clashes with government forces, while the Mexican Army has orders from President Zedillo to only take action if it is attacked.

According to what occurred in Tuxtla Gutierrez, the capital of Chiapas State, the column dispatched to Simojovel comprises four armored personnel carriers, 13 Army trucks, another five trucks from the security forces, five Federal Highway Police patrol cars, and eight trucks belonging to the General Attorney's Office.

The convoy, which is headed for Simojovel, is removing the roadblocks placed there yesterday by EZLN members or EZLN sympathizers, and is also removing EZLN propaganda.

Civilian sources in Simojovel told EFE mid-afternoon today that the convoy had not reached them yet and that there has been no EZLN presence there since midday yesterday, thus no clashes are expected.

The Government Secretariat, in a communique released in Mexico City, said today that "in certain areas of the state, federal and state public forces have instituted an operation to guarantee freedom of movement of vehicles and persons as well as order and security for the civilian population."

The note adds: "The operations, backed by National Defense Secretariat soldiers, include patrols to the municipality of Simojovel due to yesterday's incidents and the EZLN threat to break the cease-fire."

It seems that the road to Simojovel is the only one that remained interrupted today due to a ditch two meters wide and three meters deep across the road.

The zone north of Simojovel is an important oil area, which has 50 crude oil wells.

### EZLN Rejects President's Dialogue Proposal

*PA2112155694 Mexico City LA JORNADA (PERFIL Supplement) in Spanish 20 Dec 94 p 2*

[Passages within boldface as published]

[FBIS Translated Text] Communique from the Clandestine Indian Revolutionary Committee-General Command of the Zapatist National Liberation Army [EZLN]

Mexico

17 December 1994

To the people of Mexico:

To the nations and governments of the world:

To Engineer Cuauhtemoc Cardenas Solorzano:

To the National Democratic Convention:

To the National Mediation Commission [Conai]:

Brothers:

The Clandestine Indian Revolutionary Committee-General Command of the Zapatist National Liberation Army declares:

**I.** In recent days, Mr. Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon has unveiled his proposal for a "plural and independent" commission comprised of legislators from several political parties to face the difficult situation in the southeastern part of the country. Mr. Ernesto Zedillo's proposal includes a motion to have this legislative commission mediate in the conflict.

**II.** But Mr. Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon's proposal is clearly inadequate. The EZLN cannot grant mediation powers to a government body. The EZLN took up arms against the government, and the government cannot be part and mediator in the conflict. The incorporation of legislators from several political parties does not necesarilly mean they are impartial.

The Institutional Revolutionary Party, especially, is part of the government in what is called the government party system, and its impartiality toward and independence from the government is a lie.

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Legislators from opposition political parties, who supposedly do not depend on the government, cannot be mediators. They are opposition forces, andthus, their neutrality is impossible because they already oppose one of the parts in the conflict: the government.

The national force that can act as a mediator comes from what has been called "civil society," that is, those without a party. This force is the one that facilitated first the cease-fire and later the truce.

Furthermore, contrary to the discourse by the head of the federal executive, the political, economic, and social conditions that led our people to take up arms and rebel against government authorities persist. The solution to the conflict that has apparently arisen only in the southeastern Mexican state of Chiapas but that is manifested throughout the country in different ways, will not come from "government commissions" but from in-depth changes in the political, social, and economic relations between the rulers and those they rule.

**III.** Therefore,

A. The EZLN rejects the proposal that the legislative commission proposed by Mr. Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon have a role in mediating the conflict.

B. The EZLN recognizes National Mediation Commission as the representative of the peaceful effort of Mexico's civilian society and as an impartial instance in the conflict and declares that **Conai** can effectively act as mediator between the EZLN and the federal government.

C. The EZLN recognizes the social forces that surround Engineer **Cuauhtemoc Cardenas Solorzano and the National Democratic Convention** as an honest, civilian, and peaceful opposition to the government's impositions. Thus, the EZLN addresses Citizen Engineer **Cuauhtemoc Cardenas Solorozano** and the National Representative Council of the **National Democratic Convention** to request that, regardless of their political affiliation and party membership, they carry the voice of the EZLN to the Mexican people and to personalities in the country's political life whom they consider appropriate and present to them the measures that would allow stable peace:

1. A satisfactory solution of the post-electoral conflicts for the parties in the states of Veracruz, Chiapas, and Tabasco.

2. Recognition of the government of democratic transition in the state of Chiapas.

3. Recognition by the federal government of the **National Mediation Commission** as the neutral body capable of achieving a political solution to the conflict.

The EZLN recognizes the effort for peace with justice and dignity that motivates **Citizen Engineer Cuauhtemoc Cardenas Solorozano** and the **National Democratic Convention** to achieve peace with justice and dignity. In response to this effort, the EZLN General Command has issued timely orders to its troops to avoid, as much as possible, contact with Mexican Federal Army troops. The EZLN publicly commits itself not to attack, for now, the Army's current positions.

Democracy!

Freedom!

Justice!

From the mountains of southeastern Mexico

Clandestine Indian Revolutionary Committee-General Command of the Zapatist National Liberation Army

Mexico, December 1994

## EZLN Announces Resumption of Struggle 8 Dec

*PA2112135994 Mexico City LA JORNADA (PERFIL Supplement) in Spanish 20 Dec 94 p I*

[Passages within boldface as published]

[FBIS Translated Text] Communique of the Clandestine Indian Revolutionary Committee-General Command of the Zapatist National Liberation Army [CCRI-EZLN].

Mexico.

8 December 1994. 1030 hours

To Mr. Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon:

Mexico, Federal District:

Sir:

As Supreme Chief of the EZLN Armed Forces, I notify you that:

**I.** A few minutes ago, usurper Eduardo Robledo Rincon took office. The imposition has been carried out, and your government has thus formally broken the cease-fire. Therefore, the EZLN considers itself released from the commitment to respect the cease-fire and the conditions established by it since 12 January 1994.

**II.** According to the rules of military honor, I notify you of our decision to view as concluded the truce agreed upon by the federal government and the EZLN, and to resume the operations suspended on 13 January 1994.

**III.** Therefore, I inform you that our troops are at this time beginning their advance to resume our just struggle against the bad government.

**IV.** I fulfill my duty and my military honor of formally notifying you of this resumption.

**V.** According to the protocols of war, I am sending you this message through the personnel of the International Red Cross Committee.

Democracy!

Freedom!

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Justice!

Respectfully,

From the mountains of southeastern Mexico

CCRI-EZLN General Command

Mexico, December 1994

### EZLN General Command Announces 'War Report'

*PA2112051194 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 20 Dec 94 p 3*

[Passages within italics as published]

[FBIS Translated Text] From the mountains of Southeastern Mexico. Clandestine Indian Revolutionary Committee-General Command of the Zapatist National Liberation Army [EZLN]. Mexico, December 1994.

0130 hours

Communique from the Clandestine Indian Revolutionary Committee- General Command of the EZLN. Mexico. Doc. CCRI-CG-EZLN-191294-0004. 19 December 1994. 0130 hours.

To the Mexican people:

To the people and governments of the world:

To the national and international media:

The Clandestine Indian Revolutionary Committee-General Command of the EZLN announces the following war report:

I. On the morning of 19 December 1994, Zapatist troops of the 9th Regiment of the EZLN, 75th Infantry Division, took position in the following municipalities in the state of Chiapas with the support of the civilian population in an operation called "lightning" and as a part of the campaign *"Peace With Justice and Dignity for All Indian Peoples"*: Palenque
Huitiupan
Simojovel
Salto de Agua
Tila Sabanilla
Yajalon
Tumbala
Chillon

II. The action occurred without any clash with the Mexican Federal Army, in strict compliance with the cease-fire observed regarding these troops.

III. The civilian population in these municipalities appointed new authorities and declared new municipalities and rebel territories in that zone.

IV. The new rebel municipalities are:

*Huitiupan Municipality*. In the territory of the municipality of the same name.

*Simojovel Municipality*. In the territory of the municipality of the same name.

*Sabanilla Municipality*. In the territory of the municipality of the same name.

*"Vicente Guerrero" Municipality*. In the territory formerly belonging to Palenque Municipality.

*"Trabajo" Municipality*. In the territory formerly belonging to the Palenque and Chillon Municipalities.

*"Francisco Villa" Municipality*. In the territory formerly belonging to Salto de Agua Municipality.

*"Independencia" Municipality*. In the territory formerly belonging to Tila and Salto de Agua Municipality

*"Benito Juarez" Municipality*. In the territory formerly belonging to Tila, Yajalon, and Tumbala Municipalities.

*"La Paz" Municipality*. In the territory formerly belonging to Tumbala and Chillon Municipalities.

*"Jose Maria Morelos y Pavon" Municipality*. In the territory formerly belonging to the Ocosingo Zona de Marques de Comillas Municipality.

V. Those municipalities, in rebellion against a bad government, recognize Avedano Figueroa as constitutional governor of the rebel state of Chiapas.

VI. The Zapatist troops, joined by the civilian population of the zone, are preparing fortifications to resist an eventual government attack.

Democracy!

Liberty!

Justice!

From the mountains of Southeastern Mexico. Clandestine Indian Revolutionary Committee-General Command of the EZLN. Mexico, December 1994.

### Marcos Advises Zedillo of Renewed Rebellion

*PA2112130494 Mexico City LA JORNADA (PERFIL Supplement) in Spanish 20 Dec 94 p 4*

[FBIS Translated Text] Zapatist National Liberation Army [EZLN]

Mexico

19 December 1994

To: Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon

Los Pinos, Mexico City

From: Insurgent Subcommander Marcos

Zapatist National Liberation Army

Mountains of southeastern Mexico, Chiapas, Mexico

Mr. Ernesto Zedillo:

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It is my duty to inform you that you have an Indian rebellion in the nation's southeast on your hands. Do not waste your intelligence on creating "plural peace commissions" whose members are eventually imposed as governments are and provoke what they are supposed to prevent: war. Do not uselessly waste your money either on the media to divide or discourage our people. They are illiterate and have no television sets. Do not wear yourself out either with a campaign to discredit Marcos. Marcos does not exist. He was born dead on 1 January. I think that by now it is unnecessary to warn you not to believe the story of "a conflict limited to four municipalities" or about "peace agreements that were fulfilled throughout Chiapas except in the areas of conflict." You are being lied to, Mr Ernesto Zedillo. You have always been lied to.

I suggest you adopt a serious and momentous measure if you really want a dialogue. This people are just getting started.

Wishing you health and other advisers who can see where the edge of the cliff is.

From the mountains of southeastern Mexico

Insurgent Subcommander Marcos, Clandestine Indian Revolutionary Committee-General Command of the Zapatist National Liberation Army

December 1994, Mexico

### EZLN Announces New 'Rebel Municipalities'

*PA2112130494 Mexico City LA JORNADA (PERFIL Supplement) in Spanish 20 Dec 94 p 2*

[Passages within italics as published]

[FBIS Translated Text] 19 December 1994, 0030 hours

Communique issued by the Clandestine Indian Revolutionary Committee-General Command [CCRI-CG] of the Zapatist National Liberation Army [EZLN]

Mexico

Document Number: CCRI-CG-EZLN-191294-0007

19 December 1994. 0030 Hours

To the people of Mexico:

To the peoples and governments of the world:

To the national and international media:

The CCRI-CG of the EZLN makes public the following war bulletin:

I. In the predawn hours of 19 December 1994, Zapatist troops from the 11th EZLN Regiment, 75th Infantry Division, took over the following municipalities in Chiapas as part of an action codenamed "Lightning" and as part of the campaign entitled *Peace With Justice and Dignity for the Indian Peoples*:

Chanal
Oxchuc
Huixtan
Comitan de Dominguez
Altamirano
Ocosingo

II. The action was carried out without clashing with the Mexican Federal Army, thus strictly complying with the cease-fire we are maintaining with these troops.

III. The civilian populations of these municipalities proceeded to appoint new authorities and to create new rebel municipalities and territories in this region.

IV. The following are the new rebel municipalities:

*"17 November" Municipality* located in the territory formerly pertaining to the Altamirano and Chanal municipalities.

*"Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla" Municipality* located in the territory formerly pertaining to Las Mercedes and Comitan de Dominguez municipalities.

*"Ernesto Che Guevara" Municipality* located in the territory formerly pertaining to the Ocosingo municipality.

*"1 January" Municipality* located in the territory formerly pertaining to the Ocosingo municipality.

*"Cabanas" Municipality* located in the territory formerly pertaining to the Oxchuc and Huixtan municipalities.

V. The aforementioned municipalities, which rebelled against the bad government, recognize Mr. Amado Avendano Figueroa as their Constitutional Governor of the Rebel State of Chiapas.

VI. The Zapatist troops, along with civilians living in the region, are preparing themselves by erecting fortifications to resist an eventual attack by the government.

Democracy!

Freedom!

Justice!

From the mountains of southeastern Mexico,

Clandestine Indian Revolutionary Committee-General Command of the Zapatist National Liberation Army

Mexico, December 1994

### EZLN Lists Municipalities Under Control

*PA2112132794 Mexico City LA JORNADA (PERFIL Supplement) in Spanish 20 Dec 94 p 3*

[Passage within italics as published]

[FBIS Translated Text] Communique issued by the Clandestine Indian Revolutionary Committee-General Command of the Zapatist National Liberation Army. [CCRI-CG of the EZLN]

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Mexico

Document Number CCRI-CG-EZLN-191294-0006

0200 hours 19 December 1994

To the people of Mexico:

To the peoples and governments of the world:

To the national and international media:

The Clandestine Indian Revolutionary Committee-General Command of the EZLN makes public the following war bulletin:

I. In the predawn hours of 19 December 1994, Zapatist troops from the 7th EZLN Regiment, 75th Infantry Division, took over the following municipalities in Chiapas, with the support of the civilian population, as part of an action codenamed "Lightning" and as part of the campaign entitled *Peace With Justice and Dignity for the Indian Peoples*: —San Cristobal de las Casas
—Zinacantan
—Teopisca
—Villa de las Rosas
—Totolapa
—Amatenango del Valle
—Venustiano Carranza

II. The action was carried out without clashing with the Mexican Federal Army, thus strictly complying with the cease-fire we are maintaining with these troops.

III. The civilian populations of these municipalities proceeded to appoint new authorities and to create new rebel municipalities and territories in this region.

IV. The aforementioned municipalities, in rebellion against the bad government, recognize Mr. Amado Avendano Figueroa as the Constitutional Governor of the Rebel State of Chiapas.

V. The Zapatist troops, along with civilians living in the region, are preparing themselves by erecting fortifications to resist an eventual attack by the government.

Democracy!

Liberty!

Justice!

From the mountains of southeastern Mexico.

Clandestine Indian Revolutionary Committee-General Command of the Zapatist National Liberation Army.

Mexico, December 1994.

## EZLN Reports Takeover of More Towns

*PA2112133894 Mexico City LA JORNADA (PERFIL Supplement) in Spanish 20 Dec 94 p 2*

[Passages within italics as published]

[FBIS Translated Text] Communique issued by the Clandestine Indian Revolutionary Committee-General Command of the Zapatist National Liberation Army. [CCRI-CG of the EZLN]

Mexico

Document Number CCRI-CG-EZLN-191294-0005

0100 hours 19 December 1994

To the people of Mexico:

To the peoples and governments of the world:

To the national and international media:

The Clandestine Indian Revolutionary Committee-General Command of the EZLN makes public the following war bulletin:

I. In the predawn hours of 19 December 1994, Zapatist troops from the 7th EZLN Regiment, 75th Infantry Division, took over the following municipalities in Chiapas, with the support of the civilian population, as part of an action codenamed "Lightning" and as part of the campaign entitled *Peace With Justice and Dignity for the Indian Peoples*: El Bosque
San Andres Larrainzar
Bochil
Jitocol
Chenalho
Pantelho
Mitontic
Sitala
San Juan Chamula
Ixtapa
Cancuc

II. The action was carried out without clashing with the Mexican Federal Army, thus strictly complying with the cease-fire we are maintaining with these troops.

III. The civilian populations of these municipalities proceeded to appoint new authorities and to create new rebel municipalities and territories in this region.

IV. The following are the new rebel municipalities:

*"San Andres Sacamch' de los Pobres" Municipality*, located in the territory formerly pertaining to San Andres Larrainzar Municipality.

*"San Juan de la Libertad" Municipality*, located in the territory formerly pertaining to El Bosque Municipality.

*"San Pedro Chenalho" Municipality*, located in the territory formerly pertaining to Chenalho and Mitontic Municipalities.

*"Santa Catarina" Municipality*, located in the territory formerly pertaining to Pantelho and Sitala Municipalities.

*"Bochil" Municipality*, located in the territory formerly pertaining to bearing the same name.

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*"Magdalena de la Paz" Municipality*, located in the territory formerly pertaining to Chenalho Municipality.

*"Jitotol" Municipality*, located in the territory formerly pertaining to the municipality bearing the same name.

*"Canruc" Municipality*, located in the territory formerly pertaining to the municipality bearing the same name.

*"Ixtapa" Municipality*, located in the territory formerly pertaining to the municipality bearing the same name.

V. The aforementioned municipalities, which rebelled against the bad government, recognize Mr. Amado Avendano Figueroa as their Constitutional Governor of the Rebel State of Chiapas.

VI. The Zapatist troops, along with civilians living in the region, are preparing themselves by erecting fortifications to resist an eventual attack by the government.

Democracy!

Liberty!

Justice!

From the mountains of southeastern Mexico.

Clandestine Indian Revolutionary Committee-General Command of the Zapatist National Liberation Army

Mexico, December 1994

## EZLN Communique on Village Takeovers

*PA2112142894 Mexico City LA JORNADA (PERFIL Supplement) in Spanish 20 Dec 94 p 3*

[Passages within italics, boldface as published]

[Text] Communique issued by the Clandestine Indian Revolutionary Committee-General Command of the Zapatist National Liberation Army [CCRI-CG of the EZLN]

Mexico

Document Number CCRI-CG-EZLN-191294-0008

19 December 1994 at 0230 hours

To the people of Mexico:

To the peoples and governments of the world:

To the national and international media:

Brothers:

The Clandestine Indian Revolutionary Committee-General Command of the Zapatist National Liberation Army states the following:

I. Today, 19 December 1994, in compliance with the orders of the 6 December communique and in view of the statements contained in the *First Declaration of Lacandona Jungle* that ordered the Zapatist troops to protect "the civilian population in their liberating advance, allowing the liberated peoples to elect in a free and democratic manner their own administrative authorities," we culminated the military campaign called *"Peace With Justice and Dignity for the Indian Peoples."*

On 11, 12, 13, and 14 December, Zapatist troops from the **75th and 25th Infantry Divisions, 1st Southeast Army Corps** broke through the military cordon in Lacandona Jungle. Grouped in four columns, one of them led by a female officer, the Zapatist units infiltrated enemy lines to avoid an armed confrontation. During those four days, protected by the terrain, the weather, and the support of the people, thousands of fighters were able to break through the cordon. On 14 December, all the units assigned this mission were outside the bounds of the military cordon, without casualties or engaging in a skirmish with the federal troops. Once this mission was accomplished, the Zapatist fighters got ready for the next phase of the military operation. On 15, 16, 17, and 18 December, in operations codenamed "Lightning" and "Deployment" and as part of the *"Peace with Justice and Dignity for the Indian Peoples"* campaign, they took up positions, with the support of the local civilian population, in the following municipalities in Chiapas:

**1. Ocosingo**

**2. Las Margaritas**

**3. Altamirano**

**4. La Independencia**

**5. Trinitaria**

**6. Chanal**

**7. Oxchuc**

**8. Huixtan**

**9. Comitan de Dominguez**

**10. San Cristobal de Las Casas**

**11. Teopisca**

**12. Villa de las Rosas**

**13. Nicolas Ruiz**

**14. Socoltenango**

**15. Totolapa**

**16. Palenque**

**17. Salto de Agua**

**18. Tila**

**19. Sabanilla**

**20. Yajalon**

**21. Tumbala**

**22. Chilon**

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**23. Huitiupan**

**24. Simojovel**

**25. San Andres Larrainzar**

**26. El Bosque**

**27. Bochil**

**28. Chenalho**

**29. Pantelho**

**30. Mitontic**

**31. Sitala**

**32. San Juan Chamula**

**33. Zinacantan**

**34. Ixtapa**

**35. Cancuc**

**36. Jitotol**

**37. Amatenango del Valle**

**38. Venustiano Carranza**

**II.** The action was conducted without skirmishes with the Mexican Federal Army, in strict adherence with the cease-fire that is maintained regarding these troops.

**III.** The civilian populations of these municipalities appointed new authorities and declared new municipalities and rebel territories, which so far as as follows:

1. *"Libertad de los Pueblos Mayas" Municipality,* in the area previously belonging to the Ocosingo Municipality. Municipal capital city: Santa Rosa El Copan.

2. *"San Pedro de Michoacan" Municipality,* in the area previously belonging to Las Margaritas Municipality.

3. *"Tierra y Libertad" Municipality,* in the area previously belonging to Las Margaritas, Independencia, and Trinitaria Municipalities. Municipal capital city: Ejido Amparo Agua Tinta.

4. *"17 de Noviembre" Municipality,* in the area previously belonging to the Altamirano and Chanal. Municipal capital city: Ejido Morelia.

5. *"Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla,"* in the areas previously belonging to Las Margaritas and Comitan Municipalities.

Capital city: Ejido Justo Sierra

6. *"Ernesto Che Guevara" Municipality,* in the area previously belonging to Ocosingo Municipality.

7. *"1 January" Municipality,* in the area previously belonging to Ocosingo Municipality.

8. *"Cabanas" Municipality,* in the area previously belonging to Oxchuc and Huixtan Municipalities.

9. *"Maya" Municipality,* in the area previously belonging to Ocosingo Municipality.

Capital city: Ejido Amador Hernandez.

10. *"Francisco Gomez" Municipality,* in the area previously belonging to Ocosingo Municipality.

Capital city: Ejido La Carrucha

11. *"Flores Magon" Municipality,* in the area previously belonging to Ocosingo Municipality.

Capital city: Ejido Tani Perlas.

12. *"San Manuel" Municipality,* in the area previously belonging to Ocosingo Municipality.

Capital city: Rancheria San Antonio.

13. *"San Salvador" Municipality,* in the area previously belonging to Ocosingo municipality.

Capital city: Ejido Zinapa.

14. *Huitiupan Municipality,* in the area of the same name.

15. *Simjovel Municipality,* in the area of the same name.

16. *Sabanilla Municipality,* in the area of the same name.

17. *"Vicente Guerrero" Municipality,* in the area previously belonging to Palenque Municipality.

18. *"Trabajo " Municipality,* in the area previously belonging to Palenque and Chilon Municipalities.

19. *"Francisco Villa" Municipality,* in the area previously belonging to Salto de Agua Municipality.

20. *"Independencia" Municipality,* in the area previously belonging to Tilo and Salto de Agua Municipalities.

21. *"Benito Juarez" Municipality,* in the area previously belonging to Tila, Yajalon, and Tumbala Municipalities.

22. *"La Paz" Municipality,* in the area previously belonging to Tumbala and Chilon Municipalities.

23. *"Jose Maria Morelos Pavon" Municipality,* in the area previously belonging to Ocosingo Municipality known as Marquez de Comillas.

24. *"San Andres Sacmach' de los Pobres" Municipality,* in the area previously belonging to San Andres Larrainzar Municipality.

25. *"San Juan de la Libertad" Municipality,* in the area previously belonging to El Bosque Municipality.

26. *"San Pedro Chenalho" Municipality,* in the area previously belonging to Chenalho and Mitontic Municipalities.

27. *"Santa Catarina" Municipality,* in the area previously belonging to Pantelho and Siala Municipalities.

28. *"Bochil" Municipality,* in the area of the same name.

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29. *Zinacantan Municipality,* in the area of the same name.

30. *"Magdalena de la Paz" Municipality,* in the area previously belonging to Chenalho Municipality.

**IV.** The law must be enforced and abided by within the new rebel municipalities. In order of authority these are:

—"The Constitution of the United Mexican States of 1917"

—"Zapatist revolutionary laws of 1993."

—"Local laws issued by the municipal councils," as determined by the people

**V.** The aforementioned municipalities, which rebelled against the bad government, recognize Mr. Amado Avendano Figueroa as their Constitutional Governor of the Rebel State of Chiapas.

**VI.** The Zapatist troops, along with civilians living in the region, are preparing themselves by erecting fortifications to resist an eventual attack by the government.

**VII.** The General Command of the EZLN hereby terminates the military campaign known as *"Peace With Justice and Dignity for the Indian Peoples"* and prepares its next move.

Democracy!

Liberty!

Justice!

From the mountains of southeastern Mexico

Clandestine Indian Revolutionary Committee-General Command of the Zapatist National Liberation Army

Mexico, December 1994

## More EZLN Statements on Rebel Towns

*PA2112160694 Mexico City LA JORNADA (PERFIL Supplement) in Spanish 20 Dec 94 p 1*

[Passages within boldface, italics as published]

[FBIS Translated Text] Communique from the Clandestine Indian Revolutionary Committee-General Command of the Zapatist National Liberation Army [CCRI-CG of the EZLN]

Mexico

Document Number CCRI-CG-EZLN-111294-0001

11 December 1994. 2400 hours.

To the Mexican People:

To the peoples and governments of the world:

To the national and international press:

The Clandestine Indian Revolutionary Committee-General Command of the Zapatist National Liberation Army issues the following war bulletin:

*I.* Early on the morning of 11 December 1994, Zapatist troops from the EZLN's 1st, 3d, and 5th Regiments, 21st Infantry Division, in a "deployment" and as part of the military campaign **"Peace With Justice and Dignity for the Indian Peoples,"** took up positions in the previously named "zone of conflict," in the following municipalities of Chiapas State:

—*Altamirano*

—*Ocosingo*

—*Las Margaritas*

—*La Independencia*

—*Trinitaria*

*II.* The action was carried out without clashing with the Mexican Federal Army, thus strictly complying with the cease-fire we are maintaining with these troops.

*III.* The civilian populations of these municipalities proceeded to appoint new authorities and to create new rebel municipalities and territories in this region.

*IV.* The following are the new rebel municipalities:

**"Libertad de los Pueblos Mayas" Municipalities.** In territory previously under Ocosingo Municipality.

Municipal capital: Santa Rosa El Copan Ejido.

**"San Pedro de Michoacan" Municipality.** In territory previously under Las Margaritas Municipality.

Municipal capital: Guadalupe Tepeyac Ejido.

**"Tierra y Libertad" Municipality.** In territory previously under Las Margaritas, Independencia, and Trinitaria municipalities.

Municipal capital: Amparo Agua Tinta Ejido.

**"Maya" municipality.** In territory previously under Ocosingo Municipality.

Municipal capital: Amador Hernandez Ejido.

**"Francisco Gomez" Municipality.** In territory previously under Ocosingo Municipality.

Municipal capital: La Garrucha Ejido.

**"Flores Magon" Municipality.** In territory previously under Ocosingo Municipality.

Municipal capital: Tani Perlas Ejido.

**"San Manuel" Municipality.** In territory previously under Ocosingo Municipality.

Municipal capital: San Antonio Settlement.

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**"San Salvador" Municipality.** In territory previously under Ocosingo Municipality.

Municipal capital: Zinapa Ejido.

*V.* The aforementioned municipalities, which rebelled against the bad government, recognize Mr. Amado Avendano Figueroa as the Constitutional Governor of the Rebel State of Chiapas.

*VI.* The Zapatist troops, along with civilians living in the region, are preparing themselves by erecting fortifications to resist an eventual attack by the government.

Democracy!

Liberty!

Justice!

From the mountains of southeastern Mexico.

Clandestine Indian Revolutionary Committee-General Command of the Zapatist National Liberation Army

Mexico, December 1994

### Conai Issues 'Manifesto to the Nation'

*PA2112050094 Mexico City LA JORNADA (PERFIL Supplement) in Spanish 20 Dec 94 p 4*

["Manifesto to the Nation" issued by the National Mediation Commission, Conai, on 19 December in San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas]

[FBIS Translated Text] Today, 19 December 1994, Mexico and the world woke up to the news that the Zapatist National Liberation Army [EZLN] had broken a cordon imposed by the Mexican Federal Army since 12 January and had advanced some of its troops to 38 municipalities in the State of Chiapas.

Never, as much as on this day, had we faced the imminent threat of the two armies starting a fraticidal war that would cause innumerable casualties, military as well as civilian, and the destruction of natural, material, and cultural wealth.

Thus, we wish to say the following to the Mexican people:

We must stop war.

We, all Mexican men and women, must organize a great social mobilization throughout the country to find paths leading to the peace with justice and dignity that we all want.

We must carry out various actions to ensure that the cease-fire is not broken. Not a single bullet should come out of the rifles of either army.

We must struggle and demand the establishment of a means of communication between the parties and the negotiation of the minimum basic conditions to ensure a stable truce and a permanent cease- fire.

All political and social forces of Mexico must at this time make efforts to prevent war. We must not leave out any action that could lead us away from the path of construction and peace. [sentence as published]

Once a truce and a permanent cease-fire are achieved, it will be possible to establish adequate conditions to immediately start a true and effective dialogue to find urgent solutions to meet the needs of democracy, justice, and liberty.

The National Mediation Commission respectfully calls on Dr. Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon, constitutional president of the United Mexican States, to:

Keep an order issued to the Army to maintain a cease-fire to prevent a national and fraticidal war.

To the EZLN we say:

In view of the choice between war and peace, you must also firmly and decidedly opt for peace and must construct bridges of political understanding and negotiation with the government of the Republic that will definitely render unnecessary the offering of your lives and the reasons for war.

To the nation we say:

We still have time to stop the war!

Let us struggle with all civilian actions and with all possible mobilizations to prevent a break of the cease-fire and ensure the establishment of a truce and the start of a genuine dialogue!

As every Mexican, as Conai [National Mediation Commission] members, we do not want war. Our main duty is to stop any military action. True to the spirit of the initiative that established us as an instrument of civilian society, we maintain open all possibilities of interlocution and dialogue.

A change of policy, along with the people and its organizations, can prevent war.

San Cristobal de las Casas, 19 December 1994.

For Conai,

Samuel Ruiz Garcia.

Conai members support the prophetical act of Samuel Ruiz Garcia, bishop of San Cristobal de las Casas, who is staging a permanent hunger strike to prevent war.

[Signed] Concepcion Calvillo Nava, Juana de Gracia Robles, Juan Banuelos, Oscar Oliva, and Raymundo Sanchez Barraza.

### Government Issues Second Communique

*PA2112022094 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Dec 94*

[Report by Juan Carlos Escobedo from the "Evening News Panorama" newscast]

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[FBIS Translated Text] The Government Secretariat has issued a second communique on the situation in Chiapas—the first communique was issued by the Government Secretariat on 19 December— which reported that state and municipal security forces, together and supported by Mexican Army soldiers, are currently carrying out operations in Chiapas to guarantee the free movement of vehicles and people, as well as the safety of civilians.

Government Secretariat spokesman Alfonso Durazo Montano announced this on 20 December. The document stated that the operations include patrols in Simojovel municipality as a result of the incidents there on 20 December and of the threat made by the EZLN [Zapatist National Liberation Army] to break the cease-fire. The Government Secretariat reported that four of the five roadblocks in Simojovel, Salto del Agua, and Palenque were removed. Approximately 200 people, most of whom were armed and had their faces covered, manned these roadblocks. The Secretariat also reported that traffic has not been restored in some places due to the damage sustained by some roads.

In addition, it was reported that those who participated in the mobilizations staged in Simojovel municipality are members of the CEOIC [State Council of Indian and Peasant Organizations]. The document confirmed that 100 people, whose faces were covered by ski masks, took over the municipal palace in Sabanilla municipality. The presence of the Mexican Army was in response to a request made by the Chiapas Government to protect civilians. The Government Secretariat underscored that there are no violent actions in Chiapas State so far.

[Begin Durazo recording] The presence of the Mexican Army is the result of a petition made by the state government to protect civilians and public property and to support the public security operations being carried out in the state. [end recording]

In another communique made public on 20 December, the Government Secretariat, in a last-minute report, explained that traffic had been restored in Chilon and Mochil municipalities.

### Zedillo Again Urges EZLN To Negotiate

*PA2112025694 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Dec 94*

[Report by Rosi Ahuatzin from the "Evening News Panorama" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Ernesto Zedillo has again urged the Zapatist National Liberation Army [EZLN] to negotiate, but not to negotiate on this occasion under threats or blackmail. As president of the Republic, he will allow the national mediation commission to participate in the establishment of dialogue between the parties in conflict.

Meanwhile, he urged the EZLN not to carry out physical violence or propaganda; otherwise, Zedillo added, there can be no negotiation. He insisted we must act seriously and responsibly, and more so, given the conflict in Chiapas has dampened the dynamics of Mexico's economic recovery and has undermined its development.

Zedillo admitted on 20 December, without mentioning the drop of the peso in relation to the dollar, the conflict in Chiapas is beginning to hurt the savings of Mexicans and slow down the generation of jobs:

[Begin Zedillo recording] Spectacular blows in no way reflect a willingness to dialogue or negotiate [words indistinct] to resort to threats or blackmail. They must act seriously and responsibly. The government of the republic will act in such a manner. Before this forum of intelligence and creativity today, I reaffirm to the EZLN our call to avoid violent acts and to take advantage of all offered opportunities to hold a peaceful and constructive dialogue. [end recording]

During the presentation of six national arts and sciences awards here at Los Pinos official residence, Zedillo insisted the Mexican Army will unilaterally maintain the cease-fire and that his government will negotiate within the framework of the law. He called for the prompt establishment of the Commission for Dialogue and Peace Mediation, which was already accepted by the political parties.

In view of the need to ensure pluralism, Zedillo said the so-called National Mediation Commission, Conai, should not be dismissed as long as it acts as a responsible organization that is not seeking to steal the show or simply pretending to be impartial:

[Begin Zedillo recording, in progress] ...the so-called National Mediation Commission, Conai, could help construct the bridge we all want for the dialogue and negotiation. Thus, I urge Conai members to support the efforts of the Commission for Dialogue and Peace Mediation, which consists of legislators of all parties. I reaffirm my unbreakable determination to always use dialogue and negotiation to resolve the conflict in Chiapas or elsewhere. Our patience will never run out in this effort despite the isolated incidents of violence of the past hours. We will respond to intolerance with more patience. [end recording]

Zedillo clarified, however, the only limit to this patience is the law, the political Constitution of the United Mexican States. The president announced he already has ordered the attorney general of the republic to start investigations to determine whether crimes were committed between the start of the conflict in Chiapas and 19 December. Those who are responsible will be remanded.

The rule here is that patience must have a limit, and that limit is the law. Respect the law and ensure respect for it.

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### PAN Officials Meet With Zedillo on Chiapas

*PA2112183494 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1635 GMT 21 Dec 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] Mexico City, 21 Dec (NOTIMEX)—The National Action Party (PAN) today stated the need to empower the Commission for Dialogue and Mediation of Peace with the authority and liberty to take action, which will permit it to successfully carry out its mission.

During a meeting with President Ernesto Zedillo, PAN representatives acknowledged the scope and objectives of the commission, which will be comprised of members of the Institutional Revolutionary Party, the Labor Party, and the Party of the Democratic Revolution.

However, they said that given the complexity and difficult nature of the situation in the southeastern state of Chiapas, the parties must not seek personal or party benefits to incite political interests.

"Everyone, parties, citizens, public power organs, and especially the parties involved are obliged to show their true political willingness for peace," they explained.

The PAN representatives asked that public opinion and different players in the national life be clearly and truthfully informed, so that responsible decisions can be made based on a broad base of information.

The commission must effectively carry out a task to include all parties concerned in the effort, as well as to respect and coordinate with groups and political players in the state of Chiapas, where its residents should be considered in the search for political solutions." [no opening quotation mark as received]

### Bishop Rejects Legislative Commission

*PA2112190094 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1616 GMT 21 Dec 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] San Cristobal de las Casas, 21 Dec (NOTIMEX)—Bishop Samuel Ruiz today rejected the possibility that the National Mediation Commission (Conai) would support the Legislative Commission for renewed dialogue in Chiapas that was proposed by President Ernesto Zedillo.

Conai, a nongovernment organization, cannot support the Commission for Dialogue and Mediation of Peace proposed by Zedillo because this commission has already been called into question by the Zapatist Army of National Liberation (EZLN), Ruiz pointed out.

At a news conference held on the second day of his fast, Bishop Ruiz made a new call to "stop the preparations for war" because the armed group and the Mexican Army are risking not only Chiapas but national peace.

On Tuesday, the Mexican president called on members of Conai to support efforts to be made by the commission comprised of legislators from all the political parties recognized in Congress.

Zedillo said this commission would take into account every point of view, will listen to all things that can contribute to the attainment of dialogue, and will work to win cooperation.

The bishop said that the two armies have altered their positions and that at this time there are no free zones, with the exception of the physical space occupied by the International Red Cross.

This situation makes it more difficult for tension to subside in the zone of conflict and for a well-grounded cease-fire to be reached, he asserted.

Ruiz, who since the beginning of the armed conflict on 1 January has acted as mediator between the EZLN and the government, added that maintaining the cease-fire is an indispensable condition for the renewal of a dialogue and declaration of a truce.

"Although this and other similar groups are formed, they will not play an important role if both parties do not decide to end their preparations for war," the religious man stated.

In Tuxtla Gutierrez, the state's capital, the local government has reported that public security personnel lifted the blockades set up by peasant groups in Puerto Cate, Bochil Municipality and that this has freed the passage to Simojovel.

Last Monday, alleged EZLN members peacefully seized Simojovel Municipality, which is located 1,200 km into the southeast of the country, in the Lacandona Jungle, and blocked access roads.

The occupation, which was carried out without any confrontations, occurred a few hours after Marcos, who heads the armed group, announced his rejection of a government proposal that negotiations being.

### Army: 'All' Towns Under Civilian Rule

*PA2212034794 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 21 Dec 94 p 5*

[Report by Mireya Cuellar]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Government Secretariat reported yesterday evening that according to a report it received from the Mexican Army, "all" Chiapas State municipalities are under civilian authority and none is under the control of the Zapatist National Liberation Army [EZLN].

Meanwhile, the Mexican Army "maintains the positions it has been holding since 12 January" although it is also participating—along with state and federal public security forces—in an operation "to guarantee the free movement of people and vehicles," which includes patrolling Simojovel Municipality "due to (Monday's) incidents and the EZLN threat to break the cease-fire."

The secretariat also reported that circulation on federal roads 195 and 199, and on all state roads, was totally

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reestablished yesterday "following an operation by public security forces and federal authorities, which cleared the roadblocks without incident."

Federal Highways and Ports Police units in coordination with the state government and the National Defense Secretariat have increased road patrols "to guarantee free movement and prevent further damage to the region's economy."

The Government Secretariat reported that the Mexican Army is present in the area to support the civilian population, protect public assets, and back public security operations, at the request of the Chiapas Government.

Throughout yesterday, the federal government, through the Government Secretariat, issued a series of communique reporting on the Chiapas situation.

At 1500 hours, the secretariat reported that an operation had been set in motion "in some regions" of the state to guarantee free movement, order, and security for the civilian population and that National Defense Secretariat units were backing the operation.

The Government Secretariat reported that only the rural road that links La Ilusion and Los Pocitos villages, in Simojovel, remains blocked, with 30 persons manning the roadblock. Approximately 250 persons, most of them armed and their faces covered, manned the roadblocks at the municipalities of Simojovel, Salto del Agua, Tila, and Palenque.

At most of the sites where roadblocks existed, traffic is not normal yet "due to the damage" on road sectors, with ditches dug out on asphalt roads.

The clearing of roadblocks and the withdrawal of material obstructing roads has been done with the support of Chiapas State public forces and Mexican Army troops and engineers who have helped in the reconstruction of asphalt roads.

Federal and state attorney office agents initiated investigations during the operation. There was also a notary public who took note of the damage done to the roads.

Here is the official report, per municipality:

Sabanilla: The municipal palace was seized at 1200 hours by 100 armed persons wearing ski masks. So far there has been no violent incident. (The evening report, at 2100 hours, did not elaborate on this information although it reported that no municipality is under EZLN control).

Simojovel: The roadblocks on El Bosque-Simojovel and Simojovel- Huitiupan state roads ended at 0830 hours. On this last road, vehicle traffic is suspended because a ditch was dug out on the asphalt road. The road will be repaired soon. It has been reported that most of the participants in the mobilizaions in this municipality are members of the Independent Federation of Agricultural Workers and Peasants from Huitiupan, El Bosque, and Simojovel.

Salto del Agua: The roadblock on the state road that merges with Federal Highway 199 ended at 0730 hours.

Palenque: The barrier at the Palenque-Chankala road was removed at 0800. The trees used for the roadblock remain in the area.

Tila: The 200 persons who were at the place known as Pulpitillo, in Petalcingo village, withdrew toward an unknown destination.

Chilon: Yesterday there was a rumor that EZLN members would arrive in town. All the businesses shut their doors, and the people sought refuge in their homes.

The Government Secretariat also commented on the point of view expressed by Federal Deputy Retired General Luis Garfias Magana, who, as chairman of the Defense Commission of the Chamber of Deputies, said the Army is prepared "to act in Chiapas."

The Government Secretariat assured that this comment was of "a personal nature" and that the government's will to find a peaceful solution has not changed.

### 'Commander Javier' Warns of Imminent Clash

*PA2112231294 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2136 GMT 21 Dec 94*

[By Gloria Munoz]

[FBIS Translated Text] Los Altos de Chiapas, Mexico, 21 Dec (DPA)—In the foliage of Los Altos de Chiapas, where the EZLN [Zapatist National Liberation Army] has deployed its troops in the past few days, "Commander Javier," a member of the EZLN's Clandestine Revolutionary Movement, said that the insurgents "just stepped aside," without falling back.

"The EZLN forces have not fallen back or left their new territories. We just stepped aside slightly," the leader told DPA after their eight-day "quiet" campaign "to take up positions."

Commenting on the Army's advance into Simojovel, one of the municipalities declared "rebel" by the guerrillas, the EZLN "commander" warned on the danger of an armed clash. The federal soldiers are entering the territory that we control. The situation is very tense because they could clash with our troops at any time. This is the danger," he said.

In response to President Ernesto Zedillo's remarks rejecting the EZLN's "threats" and "spectacular blows," the insurgent leader said the EZLN's presence is now more marked in the state. "The government must understand that this is not an empty threat. It is true that we are everywhere. We will say it very clearly. If they try to

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go beyond the main towns in the municipalities that we control, they will be responsible for whatever happens," he added.

The EZLN leader, who is a member, with other indians, of the so-called Clandestine Indian Revolutionary Committee-General Command of the EZLN, said that the offensive's purpose was "to make known that we are in many places and to see how the government would react."

"We are not attacking military garrisons or anything else. We have been reporting the occupation of more municipalities, as the people asked us to. We have many documents telling us we do not have to wait any longer," he added.

"The peoples say that they have waited long enough, that we voted for a candidate and he won, but that the government does not want to acknowledge his victory," he added, alluding to Amado Avenda$o, whom the guerrillas on Monday recognized as Chiapas' "rebel governor."

He also said that the indian people "have the capability and necessary awareness" to form new municipalities and that, for this reason, the EZLN urged them to elect their own authorities and manage themselves according to their own laws, based on their culture and history "as long as there is no true government."

In a forest area, surrounded by EZLN guards, who conceal themselves among the trees, the CCRI-CG member said that, since the outbreak of the armed conflict on 1 January, the indians' living conditions have not changed. "We are furious because, although a war has been declared, the government is still trying to persuade us with many promises, which are but crumbs," he concluded.

### Gurria Tries To Allay International Concern

*PA2112232994 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2153 GMT 21 Dec 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] Mexico City, 21 Dec (NOTIMEX)—Mexican Foreign Secretary Jose Angel Gurria said today that the situation in the Mexican state of Chiapas has aroused concern in the international public opinion and for this reason, it is necessary to explain that the problem is limited to one area of the country.

The foreign secretary said that the armed conflict in Chiapas has aroused concern among the people of several countries for various reasons and therefore, it is necessary to explain that this situation is confined to a limited area of a Mexican state.

The secretary said during a news conference that "this matter hurts us all but it does not fundamentally change Mexico" and the significance it has abroad lies in the government's will to resolve it and the way it must be resolved.

The secretary reaffirmed the Mexican Government's invariable position in favor of dialogue, of a political solution to the problem at a negotiations table, "never through violence or through the use of weapons."

On 1 January, the Zapatist National Liberation Army violently seized several Chiapas municipalities demanding a better life for the indian population.

At the end of February, the armed group initiated talks with the government to secure peace in the region, where there is, as it has been admitted, significant social backwardness.

The group announced on 6 December that the cease-fire would be broken if Eduardo Robledo Rincon, the Institutional Revolutionary Party's candidate for governor, were to assume the governorship of Chiapas two days later.

Tuesday, the Mexican Government urged the armed group to renew the dialogue to secure peace in the state.

### Robledo, Hernandez: Situation 'Calm'

*PA2112235694 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2226 GMT 21 Dec 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] Mexico City, 21 Dec (NOTIMEX)—High-ranking officials of the southeastern Mexican State of Chiapas confirmed today that the situation in that region, which borders with Guatemala, remains calm after an armed group threatened to break a truce established by the government.

During a news conference today, Governor Eduardo Robledo Rincon gave assurances that Chiapas has enjoyed absolute calm since the authorities carried out a large-scale operation to completely reestablish free movement. No incidents have been reported.

Chiapas Attorney General Jorge Enrique Hernandez Aguilar reported that the 111 Chiapas municipalities, including the 38 in which the Zapatist National Liberation Army (EZLN) had "occupied positions" 48 hours ago, are functioning normally.

In a television message, Hernandez Aguilar reported that 600 members of the state police joined clean-up operations to reestablish traffic in several Chiapas municipalities.

Police and Army teams, traveling in four armored vehicles, 13 automobiles, five trucks, five patrols, and eight vans arrived in Simojovel, 1,200 km southeast of the capital, on the evening of 20 December.

The EZLN, which became known on 1 January after occupying several towns in Chiapas to present indian demands, in mid-December announced its decision to break a cease-fire that went into force 12 days after the conflict exploded.

The EZLN rejected a government proposal to establish a dialogue to seek a negotiated solution to the crisis in

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Chiapas through a legislative commission, considering it to be impersonal [imparcial].

### Zedillo Accepts Conai Mediation

*PA2212025694 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0126 GMT 22 Dec 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] Mexico City, 21 Dec (EFE)—Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo today accepted the mediation role in the Chiapas conflict of a commission created by Bishop Samuel Ruiz, the only person the Zapatist guerrillas recognize as a mediator.

Zedillo said that since the guerrillas believe this commission "can facilitate the first step toward a dialogue," he invited the members of Bishop Ruiz' commission to become "the first link" in the process of negotiation.

Samuel Ruiz, bishop of San Cristobal de las Casas, chairs the National Mediation Commission (Conai), which includes intellectuals and social leaders from Chiapas.

Conai was set aside when Zedillo announced last week a proposal to create a commission made up of seven legislators from the opposition whom the government entrusted with mediating between the executive branch and the Zapatist Army of National Liberation (EZLN).

However, the EZLN rejected this commission as mediator, and this left unresolved the possible resumption of peace talks in Chiapas, while tension increased as the guerrillas announced they had broken the military siege and had deployed into 38 of the 110 municipalities of Chiapas in southeastern Mexico.

"I invite members of Conai to be the first link between the mediation commission made up of legislators and the EZLN," Zedillo said at a ceremony held at the presidential residence with the National Association of Economists. "In the search for dialogue and peace, the government will not shirk any responsibility," Zedillo concluded.

### Peace Movement Joins Bishop's Fast

*PA2212032394 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 19 Dec 94 p 13*

[Communique issued by the Movement for Peace With Justice and Dignity, cosigned by local political and religious pressure groups and citizens, in Mexico City on 19 December: "Tatic Samuel, We Are With You"—passages within uppercase as published]

[FBIS Translated Text] We are with you as you have permanently stood by your people, who are the poorest among the poor.

This is a historic moment for our nation, when the efforts that men and women have made in favor of PEACE with justice and dignity seem useless. As the shadow of fratricidal war touches the hearts of the poor and the destitute, you begin your fast as a sacrifice for PEACE.

This symbol, like the bonfire, illuminates us and strengthens our commitment to remain steadfast day after day in the tireless struggle until justice and dignity finally turn into reality this PEACE, which is already a demand of the Mexican people.

To the People of Mexico; To the People of the World [subhead]

We are convinced that the outcome of the latest events in Chiapas is the result of the government's double discourse of WORDS OF PEACE AND ACTS OF WAR. This hides the truth and demonstrates the lack of true political will to solve the country's basic problems, which affects the whole nation.

WE DEMAND recognition for the work of DON SAMUEL RUIZ GARCIA, a man with an in-depth knowledge of the Indian world, as mediator in the Chiapas conflict for over two months. We also demand recognition for the efforts of the National Mediation Commission (Conai), which he also leads and which is looked upon now as the only body capable of turning back the clock of war.

WE HEREBY HOLD the federal government RESPONSIBLE for the consequences that Don Samuel Ruiz' permanent fasting might have on a person so critical to the peace we demand.

Each from our individual position, the undersigners herein join Don Samuel Ruiz' urgent effort to prevent the blood of our innocent brothers and sisters from spilling.

We call upon all men and women of good will to come together in this moment of NATIONAL EMERGENCY and unite with the permanent fast that Don Samuel Ruiz, the bishop of San Cristobal de las Casas, has begun.

The MOVEMENT FOR PEACE WITH JUSTICE AND DIGNITY will hold a simultaneous fast on 20 December beginning at 1200 hours at the Angel of Independence monument. This activity will be headed by Ofelia Medina.

A mass will precede the fast at 1200 hours and will also take place at the Angel of Independence monument.

Messages of support and cooperation will be received via fax: 535-09-92 Movement for Peace With Justice and Dignity.

WE MUST SEEK THE PATHS THAT WILL STOP WAR BY PROMOTING THE CONDITIONS THAT WILL HELP RESUME A TRUE DIALOGUE.

[Signed] Mexican Peace Committee, Morelos Citizens for Peace with Justice and Dignity, Nuevo Leon Committe for the Support of Chiapas People, Monterrey

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Peace Committee, San Luis Potosi Peace Committee, Movement of Christians Committed with People's Struggles, National Democratic Convention [CND], National Council of the CNR [expansion not given]-CND, PRT [Revolutionary Workers Party] (IV International), PRS [Party of the Socialist Revolution], ESPAZ [expansion not given], Franciscan Eucharistic Missionaries, Solidarity Commission of the Ecclesiastical Grassroot Communities, metropolitan region, Ofelia Medina, Rosario Ibarra de Piedra, Rafael Mondragon, Carmen Montes, Rocio Magdaleno, Cesar Valera, Lorena Sanchez, Mercedes Guzman Jaimes, Carlos Berumen, Antonieta Rendon, Rafael Mendez, Luz Maria Martinez, Nuria Fernandez, Juan M. Ramirez Funes, Priscila Pacheco, Hilde Eimbeke, Rosario Ojeda, Liliana Vazquez, Jose Jimenez, Genaro Dominguez, Carlos Ramos, Paula Dominguez Santiago, Irma Mixcoac Villegas, Lucila Ortega Garcia, Maria Luisa Gonzalez Galindo, Jesus Ramirez, Daniel Rodriguez, Blanca Margarita Decelis Burguetti, Maria Alicia Puente de Guzman, Luis Guzman Garcia, Georgina Perez Cueto, Beatriz Jimenez Medina, Patricio Madrigal Diaz, Eduardo Pina Castillo, Maria Magdalena Alvarado Ruiz, Rocio Ponce Lopez, Lorena Ponce, Maria Elena Perez Cueto, Victor Herrera Ramirez, Maria del Carmen Mateos Velazco, Jesus Montes, Edith Hernandez, Carlota Botey, Jesusa Rodriguez, and Alejandra Lopez.

### 'Armed Groups' Inciting Rural Residents

*PA2212031794 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 21 Dec 94 p 17*

[Report by Yolanda Lopez Ordaz]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sierra Madre de Chiapas, 20 Dec—Peasant organizations and police and municipal authorities have reported that in Sierra, Costa, Frontera, and Soconusco, armed groups have been inciting the residents of rural communities to rebel against state and federal governments.

It has been reported that these groups of rebels have looted livestock and coffee farms and have attacked all types of vehicles on Sierra roads to gather financial resources and arms "for the cause."

Ricardo Morales Ramirez, president of the Indians of the Motozintla Sierra Madre (Ismam) Society, has said that, after the EZLN's [Zapatist National Liberation Army] 1 January uprising, several groups arrived in the area from zones where EZLN is present and that these groups indoctrinated peasants into rebelling against the government using as justification their extreme poverty, alienation, exploitation, social injustice, and misery. Morales Ramirez said that the local residents have chosen to fight as a means to attain social improvement.

The municipalities of Sierra Madre de Chiapas include Motozintla, Siltepec, Bella Vista, Amatenango La Frontera, Chicomuselo, Frontera Comalapa, El Porvenir, Bejucal de Ocampo, Mazapa de Madero, and La Grandeza. In these places, authorities again and again have reported the activities of men who cover their faces with balaclavas or kerchiefs and are armed with powerful rifles, such as AK-47's and AR-15's, and heavy-caliber pistols.

Anibal Reynaldo Herrera Alvarado, mayor of Frontera Comalapa, and Francisco Javier Merida Mayorga, mayor of Motozintla, have said that, although these men have not shown up at their municipal main towns, ejido holders, peasants, and travelers have complained of assaults by groups of more than 20 members.

Herrera said that unidentified armed persons have been observed in La Aurora and El Guapinol, located in his municipality and controlled by peasants who demand lands.

Although he admitted that "the presence of armed groups in the area has not been confirmed by the authorities despite a number of rumors," he said that "peasants do not dare report this presence for fear of reprisals. Nevertheless, rural residents of the communities mentioned above say they have seen groups armed with submachine guns, rifles, and pistols go by."

Herrera said that on Saturday, four armed peasants out of a group of 30 who covered their faces with balaclavas were shot while attempting to loot La Gloria hacienda. Herrera said that similar incidents have occurred in inaccessible areas of the Sierra.

In addition, state public security agent Gerardo Alcala Lopez, stationed in Frontera Comalapa, admitted that there is fear in the area because, due to the lack of vehicles and armament, the authorities would be unable to repel the attacks of alleged subversive groups operating in the zone, who have threatened perpetrating violent actions against some local residents "for having cast their votes for the Institutional Revolutionary Party."

Primary education teachers working in rural areas have reported the presence of persons wearing green and brown clothing, military boots, balaclavas or kerchiefs, and carrying heavy-caliber rifles, whom the local residents have identified as groups of EZLN members.

Although the state's Prosecutor General's Office has reported no incident in the area today, the climate in the Coast and Soconusco is tense because Herminio Verdugo Mu$oz, leader of the Democratic Peasant Union [UCD] and the Regional Council of Indian and Peasant Organizations [CROIC], announced several movements of rebel Indians and peasants in the area as a means of pressuring Governor Eduardo Robledo Rincon into resigning.

### Outline of Army's Plan in Chiapas

*PA2112192194 Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 20 Dec 94 pp 52, 53*

[Report by Miguel Angel Ortega—passages within italics as published]

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[FBIS Translated Text] One of the plans the Mexican Army would carry out in Chiapas State against the Zapatist Army of National Liberation [EZLN] consists in splintering into three sections the zone under rebel control through the intensive use of helicopters and amphibian vehicles. According to sources consulted by EL FINANCIERO, one of the possible plans considers that for every soldier killed 10 Zapatists would die.

Launched from the states of Tabasco (Tenosique, the old base for the School of the Americas where elite Guatemalan troops, the well- known Kaibiles, were trained) and Veracruz, paratroopers would penetrate the jungle while armored vehicles—minesweepers—would advance on land to section off part of the rebel territory.

These troops, armed with H-K machine guns and transported aboard helicopter gunships, would be in charge of entering the heart of rebel territory and fighting the elite Zapatist troops. The objective is to isolate the Corralchen Mountain range from villages like Las Margaritas, Comitan, Venustiano Carranza, Chanal, San Cristobal de las Casas, and, of course, Tuxtla Gutierrez.

At the same time, infantry marine troops, in amphibian vehicles, would penetrate through the Lacanjun River and set up a *counteroffensive* to isolate the Marques de Comillas zone. According to this same attack plan, some of the infantry troops, that have been reinforced since the beginning of the conflict, would be in charge of "mopping up" on land and reinforcing the positions of the Mexican Army.

They would basically perform the tasks they have conducted up to now, patrol and surveillance, and in the future will fight the militias. Those operations would cause the Mexican Army to encircle the Zapatist rebels in such a way that one of the main theaters of the war, where the federal troops would give full use to almost all their weapons, would be perfectly demarcated.

The same plan, according to the sources consulted, would place special emphasis on protecting strategic installations such as the Angostura and Tenosique dams, located in the southern and eastern areas of the conflict. Pemex [Mexican Petroleum] installations, north of the same zone, would be the first place where protection would be reinforced.

The same plan states that the outcome would be decided in the first 24 hours of the conflict, since the Army would try to annihilate the EZLN's elite troops that, according to military intelligence, total approximately 5,000 men.

According to these predictions, parceling out the Marques de Comillas zone is important because there are suspicions that it is the rebels' rear guard where the main supply lines, in addition to the Lacandona Jungle, are located.

According to the government strategists, Subcommander Marcos, who is reality holds the rank of general in the EZLN structure, may have fortified the front line with mines and may try to ambush the troops in ravines and trenches. A second defense rung would include antitank trenches and anti-aircraft batteries by the insurgent army.

The army troops will use FAL, Galil, G-3, and M-16 assault rifles, whereas the Zapatists will use AK-47, AR-15 rifles, Sten machine guns, and rocket launchers.

Reports given to this newspaper indicate that the Mexican Army will probably use the Soviet-manufactured amphibian vehicles, displayed during the 16 September parade, for the first time. The Army will also make intensive use of its helicopters.

The Federal Army will use *rockets* in the jungle and has ruled out using bombs weighing over 250 lbs to avoid "damaging the vegetation and protests by ecologists."

**Urban Mobilization**

National Security sources believe the blockade and takeover of the mayor's offices "can hardly be attributed to an EZLN strategy because the offices are not in their bases and areas of influence."

Federal troops are now patrolling the zone. There are patrol units every 30 km, in a *polygon formation*, to allow soldiers to back each other up quickly.

The EZLN will not be able to conduct distraction maneuvers to force the troops to move because Public Security personnel, not the Mexican Army, are in charge of moving occupants from the area.

According to government estimates, the Chiapas rebels are trying to implement attraction maneuvers to get the Mexican Army to enter the jungle.

The war's central point will be defined, according to the sources consulted, when the elite Zapatist troops are located.

"The clash will last longer (more than 72 hours) if Marcos keeps those troops in the jungle. This would be inconvenient."

The government forces must meet their objectives in less than 24 hours, they indicated.

According to National Security projections, it is possible that isolated uprisings will occur in southern Veracruz, the Mixteca of Oaxaca, Sierra Norte de Puebla, Guerrero, and other mountain areas. However, those areas will not be able to maintain their blockades.

**Marcos, Alone and Without a Political Front**

National Security sources consider it improbable that Marcos will unleash a war because he will have a hard time maintaining it.

"It is clear that Marcos is alone. He does not have a political front, interlocutors to mediate in the conflict. The PRD [Party of the Democratic Revolution] and the

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National Democratic Convention (CND) have proven their inability to become the EZLN's political arm," they indicated.

They have abandoned Subcommander Marcos to his fate because they were more concerned with their quotas of power. "They took 6,000 delegates to the CND's first assembly and only a small group of 300 to Aguascalientes a month later."

There is no political movement to articulate the EZLN's demands and turn them into national-level requests. Thus Marcos has no alternative but to start a war.

"It is a pity that a movement which has such just demands should end up this way: paying with a quota of blood that will be high. In fact, the EZLN is being forced into war. It will be very difficult for civilian society to stop it."

## Report on Scene at EZLN HQ

*PA2112170294 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 20 Dec 94 p 5*

[Report by Herman Bellinghausen—passages within italics as published]

[FBIS Translated Text] Guadalupe Tepeyac, Chiapas, 19 Dec—Without firing a single shot and after 10 days of silent mobilization, the Zapatist National Liberation Army (EZLN), broke through the military cordon set up by the Mexican Army and spread the *area of conflict* to 38 municipalities. This area comprises practically the whole Indian map of the north, center, and borders of Chiapas. The traditional communities of Los Altos, those with the native dresses, Tzotziles and Tzeltales, have openly joined Zapatism, as have the young migrant communities of Marques de Comillas, now renamed Jose Maria Morelos y Pavon Municipality, in the most remote corners of the Lacandona Jungle.

*Subcommander Marcos* says:

[Marcos] All rural areas in the state are Zapatist. What is left for the government is the cities, the municipal presidencies (not all), and the roads.

But the Zapatists control the small roads, the back roads, and the mountains.

Today the state of Chiapas woke up to a new geopolitical situation. This is why the local and foreign press were summoned to a news conference at 0200 at the presidency of the "San Pedro de Michoacan" Municipality—one of the 32 *new* Tzotziles, Zoques, Choles, Tzeltales, and Tojolabales Municipalities.

[Marcos] It is my duty to inform you that you have an Indian rebellion in the nation's southeast on your hands.

With these words to President Ernesto Zedillo, *Marcos* renewed the EZLN's rugged dramatic ways.

Night of a full moon. The town is unusually dark. An aircraft flies over in the night. At the "town hall's" "Office of Agrarian Affairs," a television set sits on a small desk that in turn sits on top of a larger desk. On this one there are a bunch of files containing war reports that *Subcommander Marcos* reads for an one hour. The room is small but adequate. Six masked, armed militia are on watch, while the EZLN's military chief speaks to the sleepy reporters who listen to him with surprise.

*Major Moises* smokes, as does *Marcos*; he smokes a pipe. The *subcommander* warns:

What you are going to hear has military implications. What I am going to tell you is that we have broken the siege.

He sums up the events since the 6th, when it was announced that if Eduardo Robledo took over as governor the truce would be broken. On the 8th Robledo was sworn in as governor, and immediately thereafter the EZLN broke the truce. On the 9th the deployment of two divisions began (one, he explains, was led by a woman) in four directions. On the 12th the siege was broken with the occupation of rural areas following the powerful siege from Tuxtla Gutierrez to the outskirts of Tabasco and of Guatemala, which had been set up with all of the Mexican Army's technology and weaponry.

He lays out sequential maps of the territory before and during the mobilization, and of how it finally ended up. In 10 days, the EZLN increased its territory five-fold; it now occupies almost half of the state. This includes even the most controlled municipalities like Chamula, Zinacatan, and Amatenango, that have escaped the historical fist of the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] and risen in arms.

Will 1 January be repeated?

After convening the National Democratic Convention, Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, and the National Mediation Commission to join efforts to prevent war and to place the negotiations on a national level, *Subcommander Marcos* addresses President Zedillo and concludes—not before indicating, God willing he does not make a mistake again—wishing him health and that "other advisers who can see where the edge of the cliff is."

Later he shows a video recorded by an Indian of a celebration held somewhere in Los Altos when the siege was broken on 12 December.

This is an armed dance. Tzotziles from Chamula, Mitontic, San Andres, Chenalho, and Pantelho, garbed in traditional dress, armed and hooded or with bandanas around their faces, dance to the unending strains of harp and guitar. There are *close-ups* of bare feet close to the floor, beating hands, faces, harps. And there are two speeches in Spanish that turn out to be in fact one under the direction of *Commanders Jose Maria and Guillermo.*

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We want to show the government that we are able to carry out any task. Here we are. We are able to do everything. We are offering our lives for our people. We the Zapatist Army will never surrender.

Wearing their white outfit [chuj], the commanders walk before the cameras followed by hundreds of men and women in silence, the same people who were dancing.

We continue the war. We want to be the light of the world so they can learn, so they may see how things should be.

The immaculate image of the Indians in their traditional white dress, with rifles on their shoulders, wearing sandals, and black balaclavas, dancing hypnotized, is unnerving. Traditional authorities burning copal before a small Chamula cross while the fifes and one *drum* sound. The speakers now become video narrators.

The speeches, given while the speakers are in motion, are accompanied by a harp:

[Commander] This is to prove that we are not foreigners. We are 100 percent Indian, born here in Chiapas.

There are some violins and other small violins, and dancing with a branch. Those who do not carry a rifle on their backs, carry a gourd filled with flowers and hats decorated with colorful ribbons.

Instead of wearing bandanas, some paint their faces in the fashion of jaguars. The *commanders* continue:

[Commander] They have not given us even a grain of sand. The government is mocking us. This is why we are angry. There are no signs of change. This is our belief. We will not be demoralized and we will not accept that the Zapatists are giving in.

They are repeatedly critical of the media. Unlike peasants from the jungle, those from Los Altos endure attacks by commercial and official radio stations, and they can tell the difference between what the commentators say and their true situation.

[Commander] The Mexican territory where we live belonged to our ancestors. We firmly defend our *culture*. The war is under way, as is the one for the cultures of every people. You see us trying to rescue our cultures.

The video images are valuable for two or three reasons: ritual, cultural, and propagandistic. They constitute a new way, different from the jungle's, of conducting politics. *Commander Jose Maria* denies the Zapatists are killing other Indians, as reported by certain media.

[Commander Jose Maria] The government has neglected Chiapas as if it were trash or an animal. We are people; we have ideas.

The harp accompanies him melodiously:

[Commander Jose Maria] We want to invite you to see the true situation. The time to awaken has come. This is an invitation we extend to the people.

The final invitation leaves no room for doubt. From some place in Los Altos, which for us in the media is another world, a performance is taking place, the Tzotzil *commanders* are addressing the world:

[Commander] We urge all conscientious people to change the situation. We urge the Mexican Government to understand our struggle. We are not acting aimlessly; we have plans. If the government does not accept these changes, we urge the people and the countries of the world and other nations to support our struggle. We are not crazy.

The video is over. The celebration of the siege's "rupture." And *Marcos* jokes:

[Marcos] We give video lessons.

The cameramen laugh. A news conference begins. It is 0330. The *subcommander* insists:

[Marcos] Our movement is political. Ours are national demands.

This is the Zapatist *leitmotiv*:

[Marcos] Claiming that force is the solution would be tantamount to deceiving the Mexicans. For the time being, the EZLN commits itself to *not* attacking any Army position. It will only defend all areas currently under our control.

Contrary to the view of many politicians and political specialists, Subcommander Marcos reiterates:

[Marcos] In Chiapas, the solution is to carry out the revolution that was never carried out. And it is too soon to say there will not be a war in Mexico. We do not threaten; we are only warning.

He concludes with the certainty that the situation will change:

[Marcos] I do not know if I will get to see it, but you probably will.

Once the nocturnal presentation was over, we were gratefully expelled from the jungle. Beyond Nuevo Momon—once the first rebel roadblock—two trucks filled with masked militiamen escort the caravan of journalists. The trucks stop between Monteflor Ranch and La Florecilla, 19 km from the roadblock of the Gabino Vasquez Mexican Army seemingly with the intention of settling in.

That is nothing at this point. The mobilization of rebels and militiamen is a serious territorial challenge. If the problem is big, so should be the solutions.

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## Zedillo on Exchange Rate Measure, Chiapas

*PA2212020294 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Dec 94*

[Report by Rosi Ahuatzin from the Los Pinos presidential residence in Mexico City; from the "Evening News Panorama" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] It was necessary to make the exchange rate more flexible in view of the heavy pressure, Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo said. He pointed out that if this measure that entails a lesser cost had not been adopted on behalf of the population, the possibilities of economic recovery would have been thwarted.

In presenting the National Economy Award at the Los Pinos residence, he mentioned the political and economic pressures that forced a decrease in the value of the peso in relation to the dollar: a shortage of foreign investment, high interest rates, the murder of prominent political figures, and, of course, the conflict in Chiapas.

[Begin Zedillo recording] The new flexibility will not become an excuse to abandon economic discipline. In 1995, the federal government will have a completely balanced budget. The Bank of Mexico, in keeping with its autonomy, has reaffirmed that it will carry out a monetary policy leading to permanent inflation rate reductions. [end recording]

Dr. Zedillo said that efforts will be made to increase our exports by taking advantage of the exchange rate flexibility. No one, he added, should shirk his responsibility. He admitted that there is reciprocal distrust and that it has built up for years. Zedillo pointed out that this administration that is just starting is facing a very complex economic and political situation. He added that it is essential to fully recognize the extent of the challenges facing us, but we must do so while being fully aware of our strengths as a nation.

Dr. Ernesto Zedillo, in reference to his great patience, reaffirmed his willingness to hold talks with the Zapatistas, the political parties, and social organizations. He pointed out that to solve the Chiapas problem.... [pauses] the topic.... [pauses] there is an open agenda for the talks. The topics can include political matters, electoral aspects, agricultural justice, the right of Indian peoples, and of course, ensuring that justice is served.

## Finance Secretary on Effect of Chiapas Events on Exchange Rate

*PA2112044694 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Dec 94*

["Excerpt" of an interview with Jaime Serra Puche, secretary of finance and public credit, with Gustavo Lomeli and Flor Berenguer on 20 December; place not given; from the "Evening News Panorama" newscast—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Lomeli] We would like you to explain the measures that were agreed to during the predawn hours this morning when renewing the Pact for Well-Being, Stability, and Growth. One of the fundamental items is to maintain the current slide [desliz] but raise the ceiling of the exchange rate.

[Serra] That is it, Gustavo. Pact signatories held a meeting last night to ensure that the economy will remain healthy and that we consolidate the price stabilization we have reached despite events in Chiapas and the nervousness this affair has caused. We thus reached several agreements, on which you have undoubtedly already reported, and they will be appended in an annex we all agreed to add to the pact's basic document.

First, it is a strong call for dialogue to take place in Chiapas without delay so as to find a peaceful and dignified solution to the conflict. Second, it is established to approve each and every one of the commitments to which each side has agreed in the pact. Third, it is established to grant greater flexibility to the Bank of Mexico by broadening the ceiling of the exchange rate so as to allow the Bank of Mexico, in a very orderly fashion and as part of the pact agreements, to be able to deal with nervousness resulting from the Chiapas conflict, especially with the growing nervousness observed since yesterday due to events in that state.

[Lomeli] People are asking themselves, what effect will broadening the range of the floating exchange rate have? The range will be broadened by approximately 15 percent.

[Serra] What this means is that the range increases in size, meaning the market has a greater flexibility so as to deal with the nervousness due to the Chiapas conflict. This point basically means: Allow us to watch exchange rate behavior within this range. As you know, there are times when the exchange rate is on the high part of the range, and sometimes it drops to the low end. This complicated year for Mexico has meant we have tended to stay on the high side of the range. We have agreed to give greater flexibility in anticipation of any problem that may arise regarding the Chiapas conflict and especially to anticipate nervousness we are beginning to see in the markets these last days, especially yesterday.

[Lomeli] This does not necessarily mean the peso will be devalued; instead, it is a decision to avoid sudden changes in exchange parity. Is this so?

[Serra] Exactly. That statement is precisely the way to explain it. Your explanation is better than mine.

[Lomeli] Another question people are asking is, can this broadened exchange rate range cause interest rates to jump, higher prices, or greater inflation? This question is what common people are interested in, Dr. Serra Puche.

[Serra] We have been able to tie down all variables, because we have the overall pact scheme. The agreement we reached last night is to tie down all variables so as to

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ensure that the natural nervousness caused by the Chiapas conflict does not cause us to grow faster in 1995 than it did in 1994 and thus hold down inflation.

I feel it is important to refer to what happened during 1994, which, as I said, has been a particularly complicated year for Mexico. There were up to 11 point swings in the exchange rate during 1994; nevertheless, we ended up with an inflation rate lower than in 1993. Why? Because it was done in an orderly manner, because it was part of the pact, and because it was agreed. We are doing exactly the same this time, exactly the same as what happened during 1994 up to now. We are simply giving ourselves greater maneuvering room, which is totally coordinated and tied down.

The expectation is that we can grow faster than 1994, a premise which is quite probable—because we have already noticed high growth rates at the end of 1994—and which will continue in 1995, and that inflation will be lower than 1994, an expectation which is also probable. Inflation has been dropping consistently as you know.

[Lomeli] CETES [treasury certificates] are due to be auctioned today. The auction was yesterday, but results will be released today. As finance secretary, how did it go?

[Serra] The auction is actually this morning. Treasury bonds [tesebonos] will be auctioned this morning, CETES later. We will gladly inform you of the auction results as soon as we know.

[Lomeli] Another topic is that this decision to increase the fluctuation range will contribute to a greater growth of the economy in 1995, something which will comply with your economic plan goal of 4 percent; this will, of course, have an impact by generating new jobs and a recovery of the true salary. Nevertheless, regarding inflation, can this decision prevent reaching the 4 percent inflation rate goal for 1995?

[Serra] I used this year as an example. We had significant movements inside the range, particularly after the terrible events when Luis Donaldo Colosio was murdered. There was an upward trend inside the range from then on. We had exchange rates in 1993 that were permanently in the middle of the range. We ended up with a higher inflation rate in 1993 than in 1994 despite the fact the fluctuations tended to rise inside the range in 1994. Provided we comply with each and every one of the pact's precepts and the economic program, the expectation should be that 1995's inflation should be lower than 1994.

[Lomeli] The explanation is quite important, because people cannot be allowed to panic or have fears that would lead them to demand dollars, because this would raise the exchange rates to the cap. I believe these sort of messages and explanations are good to inform and allow people to learn exactly where we are and how that political factor generated by Subcommander Marco's intransigent attitude is affecting the economic variables now.

[Serra] That is it. What we are doing is anticipating ourselves to ensure there is no negative impact.

[Berenguer] Good morning, Dr. Serra Puche. It is Flor Berenguer.

[Serra] Pardon?

[Berenguer] Good morning. It is Flor Berenguer. I would like you to make a general recommendation to the public. We may suddenly believe psychologically that dollars are good to keep under the mattress. We have grasped dollars for years so as to extend our economy, but we understand this act should not be the case now with the economy we intend to have. What general recommendations would you give the public in view of this morning's measures?

[Serra] These measures result from the agreement of all sectors, which is to ensure price stability and economic growth. We have granted greater flexibility by admitting the nervousness and uncertainty the Chiapas conflict has generated. The recommendation is that all of us should continue making an effort to work productively and to contribute to Mexico's growth with stability, something which is what is best for the country in order to generate the jobs the country needs.

## CTM Fails To Endorse Widened Peso Band

*PA2012232394 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 1950 GMT 20 Dec 94*

[Report by Marisela Palacio; from the "Midday News Panorama" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Fidel Velasquez Sanchez, Confederation of Mexican Workers [CTM] leader, saying that he is totally convinced of his own statements, pointed out that the organized labor movement does not recognize any ratification of the Pact for Welfare, Stability, and Growth. In addition, the CTM does not endorse the widening of the fluctuation band of the exchange rate of the peso vis-a-vis the dollar. Questioned in his office, located on 8 Vallarta, the labor leader calmly but firmly said that the Labor Congress was not convened to ratify the pact. That is why he fails to understand the statements made by Finance Secretary Jaime Serra Puche on the issue.

[Begin Velasquez recording] We have not been summoned yet; there has been no meeting whatsoever on this subject. However, if he is worthy of being believed [words indistinct], I maintain it is untrue, because we have not met to discuss the issue. [end recording]

When questioned on whether the CTM knew of the widening of the peso's fluctuation band, as announced early this morning by the appropriate authorities,

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Velasquez stressed that he was unaware of this decision, and this is why he cannot endorse it either.

[Begin Velasquez recording] We do not know because [words indistinct]. We do not endorse it because we are unaware of it. [end recording]

Meanwhile, the leader of the major workers organization has said that he is pleased over the 10-percent increase in the minimum wage, granted by the National Minimum Wage Commission. Let us hear what he has to say about it:

[Begin Velasquez recording] We are very pleased wilth this achievement. This issue will already be resolved by 1 January 1995. The new wages [sentence indistinct] It was decided in principle to meet the demand we made to increase wages by 10 percent, which is a figure we never lowered. [end recording]

To this end, Jaime Fidel Velasquez expressed his regret that the CROC [Revolutionary Confederation of Workers and Peasants] had betrayed the struggle of the labor movement when it accepted a 4-percent increase in the minimum wage. Finally, among the many issues he discussed during the interview he granted in his office, Velasquez maintained that the CTM would support any decision made by the federal government to reach peace and harmony if hostilities are resumed in Chiapas.

### Senator Denies Peso Devaluation

*PA2112040094 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Dec 94*

[Report by Juan Carlos Escobedo from the "Evening News Panorama" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Carlos Sales, chairman of the Senate Treasury Commission, has said that the expansion of the peso exchange rate band is a temporary measure that will be reverted as soon as there are signs of a peaceful solution to the problem in Chiapas. The senator from Campeche denied that this is a devaluation of the peso, and he asked that citizens not be misinformed at times when the country is facing a delicate political and financial situation.

In an interview, Carlos Sales said that this measure was necessary to give a greater margin of maneuvering to the Bank of Mexico and to help the financial market stabilize through a reduced use of reserves and to neutralize the nervousness of investors, to a certain degree.

The senator of the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] added that developments such as the crime against Luis Donaldo Colosio, among others, sent the exchange rate throughout the year to the ceiling of its band, but it stabilized later. He voiced hopes that a solution to the Chiapas problem would soon normalize financial markets.

[Begin Sales recording] Once a solution to the Chiapas problem is found, the problem of exchange rate fluctuations and the nervousness of financial markets will also subside. [end recording]

Carlos Sales said that those who bet against the peso and speculate with the dollar will lose.

[Begin Sales recording] If there is the risk that they will bet there will be a risk that they might lose. That is what makes a plain devaluation different. There will be speculators, and I wholeheartedly hope that they will lose, because they are not betting against the peso, but against Mexico. [end recording]

### Airport Banks, Exchange Houses Suspend Sale of Dollars

*PA2112022894 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Dec 94*

[Report by Elvia Moreno from the "Evening News Panorama" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Faced with the exchange rate adjustment suffered by the Mexican peso in relation to the U.S. dollar, banks and currency exchange houses operating in Mexico City's International Airport today suspended the sale of dollars. This immediately gave rise to profiteering, as well as exchanges in the black market. Profiteers sold the dollar for as much as five new pesos due to the excessive demand for the U.S. dollar. The demand for the dollar normally increases during the vacation season. The increase in the value of the dollar relative to the peso was the cause of discontent and concern among the airport terminal users, since some of them were not able to change their pesos for dollars before traveling to the United States.

### People Urged Not To Buy Dollars Out of Panic

*PA2112034394 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Dec 94*

[From the "Evening News Panorama" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Mexican private and banking sectors have called on people not to purchase dollars out of panic. As we have just learned from the report by Elvia Moreno, there were no dollars by noon at the Mexico City International Airport and at several other national airports. According to statements made by Jose Madariaga Lomelin, president of the Mexican Banking Association, on the afternoon of 20 December, this situation must not prevail. He said that this situation will change within a few days. Bankers and the private sector recognized that, as the finance secretary has already reported, this is a preventive measure taken in light of everything happening in Chiapas State. This is part of what Madariaga told us a few minutes ago:

[Begin Madariaga recording] The most important thing is that we will not support the measure and will ignore it

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a bit as we do not understand it. [sentence as heard] In the end, this is called trust in our economic policies. I believe that none of you thinks that the current Mexican economic situation could be compared to that of the first month of the previous government or even to that of the first month of the government of Miguel de la Madrid. [end recording]

Meanwhile, (Julio Millan), International Consulters president, called on people to avoid foreign exchange speculation and panic. He pointed out that the measure was taken by all sectors who encompass the pact as a way to protect the Mexican economy. He emphatically maintained that this measure is not a devaluation but a controlling step that is trying to prevent foreign exchange fluctuations. Representatives from Canacintra [National Association of Manufacturers], Canaco [National Chamber of Commerce], the Business Coordinating Council, and all the Mexican business organizations called on people to remain calm and maintained that, in their opinion, this measure is specific and fair. They stated that in the last few days, the Mexican peso vis-a-vis the dollar was already reaching the ceiling imposed by the Bank of Mexico and that this situation could not be endured any longer, because it would create more pressure and could trigger inflation. This is why authorities and all sectors decided to widen the fluctuation band of the Mexican peso so that it will not have much pressure vis-a-vis the dollar. As I already mentioned, this situation, according to economic experts, will not stay for long, because the economy cannot bear it.

We must take into account something else, which is very true and which the exchange houses are making us remember: since this vacation time and, above all, since it is the end of the year, both businessmen and tourists are demanding more foreign exchange than the normal levels of exchange that are demanded in May, June, and mid-year. This situation is the result, on the one side, of the vacation period and, on the other, businessmen having contracted credits abroad. This situation is making them have to pay the credits in dollars and is making them demand a greater amount of dollars.

## Finance Secretariat, Bank Uphold Exchange Rate

*PA2112224794 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2009 GMT 21 Dec 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] Mexico, 21 Dec (NOTIMEX)—The Finance Secretariat and the Bank of Mexico

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affirmed today that the new exchange rate is consistent with low inflation rates and with sustained economic growth and therefore will have no negative effect on financial intermediaries.

According to a joint communique, public finances will continue to be enhanced with the privatization of ports, airports, and other public enterprises in the industrial and services sectors.

They explained that "the impact of the exchange adjustment on public finances has been neutralized" because while it is true that currency devaluation makes the servicing of the foreign and domestic debt more expensive, additional peso expenditures are compensated by an increase in national currency incomes.

The two institutions reiterated that the decision to raise the exchange rate ceiling by 15 percent was adopted while keeping other commitments of the September 1994 Pact for Well-Being, Stability, and Growth unaltered.

The salary agreements established in the pact remain unchanged, which means that minimum salaries will be increased by 4 percent because of the expected inflation rate and by an additional 3 percent on the basis of the expected average production increase.

Regarding this year's events that produced strong pressure on the exchange market and forced the adoption of adjustment measures, the two entities referred to "recent threats to social peace by the armed group that operates in Chiapas." These threats, they said, "have created a state of uncertainty that is hindering healthy economic development in the country."

The entities said that another pressure factor on the exchange market is the high 1994 current account deficit and a similar outlook for 1995 in a context of relative shortages of capital in the international financial markets.

The entities added that fiscal, monetary, and salary measures envisaged in the pact, plus the 20 percent currency devaluation throughout the year, will produce a correction in the current account deficit.

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## Belize

### Minister Accused of Rape; More Officials' Crimes Cited

*FL1912130094 Bridgetown CANA in English 1606 GMT 18 Dec 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Belize City, Dec. 18, CANA—A 19-year-old woman from a remote village in southern Belize has accused Minister of State in the Ministry of Works, Wilfred Usher, of raping her. The incident is reported to have happened last Tuesday in Punta Gorda, Belize's southern-most town.

Minister Usher has denied the allegation and threatened legal action against the woman reported to be one of his constituents. The minister has declined comment since the reported incident was leaked last this week [as received], but in a written statement issued through the Prime Minister's office, called the matter a "political set-up".

"The accusation is completely false," the statement said. "It defiles my character and good name and I will be taking legal action against the woman for her wrongful and scandalous allegation."

A preacher and first-time elected member of parliament, Usher said he was a government minister and, "have and would never assault a woman." [as received] Usher claims to have made a complete statement to the police but so far they are keeping tight-lipped about the incident.

However, information leaked to the press at the weekend indicates that the woman has been examined at the Belize City hospital where her injuries were found to be consistent with a sexual assault. The police have not yet said if they are going to charge the Minister of State.

The opposition People's United Party (PUP) has called the alleged incident another in a series of "scandalous bahavior" by ministers of the UDP [United Democratic Party] cabinet, citing recent reports of questionable land deals by Lands Minister Edwardo Juan and public comments made by local Government Minister Hubert Elrington when he called for mass killings of "those thugs who broke the law".

Attorney General in the former PUP administration Glenn Godfrey said, "we are against all crimes whether murder, burglary, assault or rape" whether it is committed by the, "the man in the street or the man who sits in the highest office of government".

The PUP last week called on Prime Minister Manuel Esquivel to fire the Minister of Lands, accusing him of shady dealing in the alleged transfer of 4000 acres of land situated at Isabella Bank, a remote village in the Belize District, "to a foreign concern".

The PUP said that based on reports it had received Minister Juan had swapped the 4000 acres of government land for a 90 acre parcel acquired near Georgeville village in the Cayo district.

Minister Juan has not confirmed or denied the PUP allegation.

Another report of land swapping was reported again this weekend by the BELIZE TIMES, this time involving 400 acres of land in the Franks Eddy area of middle Belize "granted to an Indian/Chinese connection". The minister has also come in for heavy criticism over an incident in San Ignacio, the minister's home town, when he allegedly knocked down a resident and was accused of attempting to run the victim over with his vehicle. The alleged incident, which has not been reported by the police, has not been denied or confirmed by the minister.

The opposition said if Prime Minister Esquivel wanted to retain any respect for his government, now was the time to act.

"Fire the Minister. Put him on the backbench," the PUP said.

## El Salvador

### FMLN Elects Political Commission, Sets Agenda

*PA2012151194 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Dec 94*

[Report by Douglas Mejia from the "YSU Radio News" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 18 December, the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] closed its national convention, during which its new political commission was elected. Leonel Gonzalez, leader of the FPL [People's Liberation Forces], heads the commission as the new FMLN coordinator general. Gonzalez said that the convention's results were positive and that it was decided to create a goal-oriented party [partido de tendencia]. He added that it was agreed that those who assumed leadership posts will disassociate themselves from the political organizations to which they belong and will represent only the FMLN.

[Begin Gonzalez recording] I would head the FMLN this year only. I will place my post at the disposal of the party next year. In other words, this decision reflects modernizing, democratic, and unified thought. [end recording]

The creation of a new political agenda for 1995 was another of the results of the FMLN's national convention. Gonzalez said this agenda will try to eliminate internal disputes and project a reformist image of the FMLN.

[Begin Gonzalez recording] It is a political agenda through which the FMLN plans to eliminate internal disputes, issues on which much of the FMLN's energy was wasted in 1994. This new political agenda will allow the FMLN to expend all its energy on and to let the people know about our political agenda. We believe this agenda will solve many problems. We also believe that

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there should be more democratic and honest policies. These policies will be our main struggle this year. [end recording]

According to a agreement reached during the convention, the FMLN's political agenda for 1995 will try to eradicate institutional impunity and to guarantee respect for human rights.

Only three political organizations attended the FMLN convention in the wake of some obvious internal division heightened after the April elections. The People's Revitalizing Expression and the National Resistence withdrew from the FMLN to create their own political organization which will follow social democratic guidelines.

## Guatemala

### Official: U.S. Proposal on Tobacco Tariff 'Unacceptable'

*PA2112212294 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 20 Dec 94 p 6*

[FBIS Translated Text] During talks in Geneva with Guatemala, the United States has proposed an amendment to its law on tobacco imports based on GATT rules, even though it has proposed a tariff for the continent that exceeds a quota acceptable to our country.

Foreign Minister Marithza Ruiz de Vielmann said this, adding that it fell upon our country to negotiate with the United States because it is its chief supplier of that product.

She explained that said country is aware of the problems that its policy on tobacco imports has caused to different suppliers, Guatemala in particular, which is why it would be ready to amend it.

The official noted that the proposed modification dealt especially with raising the current quota and respecting our country's traditional access to that market.

She added, however, that the United States is also seeking to impose a 300 percent tariff on shipments above the quota, which is unacceptable to Guatemala.

Ruiz de Vielmann said that although respecting countries' traditional quotas in order to have access to the United States falls in line with GATT, a tariff of over 300 percent is at odds with that top entity that rules world trade.

For Guatemala, she noted, that initiative constitutes a barrier and bans our access, which is something it will not accept during the talks in Geneva.

### Government Agrees To Sign UN Draft on Indigenous Peoples

*PA2112195894 Guatemala City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 19 Dec 94 p 2*

[Report by Gerson Lopez]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to Peace Commission President Hector Rosada, the government has agreed to sign the second draft of the UN-sponsored agreement on the Identity and Rights of the Indian Peoples. Rosada announced this after meeting with UN representatives over the weekend.

Five points pending from the previous meeting had been rejected by the government because of their complexity. But according to Rosada, that meeting served as an occasion for a lengthy exchange with the United Nations, in order that similar talks could be held with the URNG [Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity] commander. This resulted in the proposal for the second draft.

The document as drafted by the United Nations was received last Thursday night. After study, the document was approved at a meeting with UN delegates. But "we have some minor reservations about its form," Rosada explained.

For the United Nations, this new working session proved that conditions for the prompt signing of an agreement on this topic did not yet exist.

The moderator of the negotiations will therefore submit to the UN secretary general an update on the state of the negotiations. The international organization will issue a declaration to this effect in the coming days.

Rosada confirmed that the government believes there is nothing more to discuss on this topic, but it must await the URNG's position on this to be announced. According to Rosada, those he represents are quite willing to sign the agreement on the Identity and Rights of Indian Peoples.

The government considers the topic closed. There is already a document, prepared by the United Nations. We have already approved it, and it could be signed any time.

Rosada also said the government has not at any time opposed the proposed constitutional reforms. The government endorses constitutional reforms as long as they are positive and not detrimental to the country's internal order, Rosada stressed.

"We cannot accept autonomy or political organization based on ethnicity because it would be tantamount to fascist, not democratic, practices and could lead to an undesirable model for our representative, democratic-republican system. There are truly important aspects which, although they do not involve significant changes for the state, as had been planned, do lay the foundations for the acknowledgement of the Identity and Rights of Indian Peoples," Hector Rosada argued.

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## Nicaragua

### President Appoints Joaquin Cuadra Army Chief

*PA2112200794 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 21 Dec 94*

[Speech by President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro at the Presidential House in Managua; monitored in progress—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] ...history reminds us of unfortunate experiences of the past, of military chiefs who have placed party or personal interests above the interests of the fatherland.

This simple ceremony today has great significance for our Nicaragua because it marks a new era in the nation's history, one in which the Army and its commander in chief are called on to consolidate themselves institutionally as servants of the people's legitimate interests.

Six months ago we met in unity in this same room to send to the National Assembly our military code bill which, after lengthy discussions and a broad national consensus, we made into a law of the republic.

Today, 21 December, we are complying with what is established in the new military code. As a result, democracy is further strengthened in our nation. For this reason, I want to publicly recognize the Army High Command and, very especially, General Humberto Ortega Saavedra for their dedicated and patriotic contribution to this historic process on behalf of the construction of an institutional and professional Army in the service of the fatherland. Thank you very much, Humberto. [applause]

Today, as president of the Republic of Nicaragua, I have appointed Major General Joaquin Cuadra Lacayo as commander in chief of the Army. When Maj. Gen. Cuadra assumes his post, he will have the responsibility of serving as an example for future military generations in subordination to civilian authority, in respect for the Army's organized structures and the republic's institutional order, and especially in the temporary nature of the post of commander in chief of the Nicaraguan Army.

As president of the Republic of Nicaragua and supreme chief of the nation's Armed Forces, I feel proud to take, along with you, this historic step that consolidates Nicaragua's democratic system and makes a reality the dream of all patriots who have always wanted a national army at the service of the highest interests of the fatherland and the common good.

I wish all Nicaraguans, all my Army, my friends accompanying me in the cabinet, all journalists, and all Nicaraguans, a merry Christmas and a better new year. May God bless you all.

## Panama

### President: Truth of U.S. Invasion Should Be Told

*PA2112195394 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 21 Dec 94 p 1*

[Report by Cristobal Chen]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Ernesto Perez Balladares said yesterday that "the truth" of what happened during the 20 December 1989 U.S. invasion of Panama should be "cleared up."

Perez Balladares said: "We should do justice unto those anonymous national heroes by clearing up the truth about what happened."

Yesterday at the Palace of the Herons the president awarded approximately 70 scholarships to the children of those who fell during the U.S. Army's invasion of Panama.

Perez Balladares also added that "the president's cooperation can be counted on wherever efforts are made to ensure that the 20 December invasion never fades from the memory of Panamanians."

According to Perez Balladares, during the past five years "there has been an attempt to cover up the horrors of the invasion with a blanket of oblivion."

The U.S. Army invaded Panama with a 30,000-strong force to oust former General Manuel Antonio Noriega, who surrendered to U.S. forces on 3 January, after taking refuge at the Holy See's mission.

According to sources, the military action resulted in 500 civilian and military deaths. But relatives of the victims and humanitarian groups say that number is approximately 5,000.

"It is time that Panama and the United States think about what caused the death of citizens of both nations and how it adversely affected our nation's dignity," Perez Balladares pointed out.

Yesterday the executive declared 20 December a day of national mourning in memory of those who fell on 20 December 1989.

Perez Balladares added that the "objective truth" of what occurred must be sought, not the "Panamanian version for comparison with the U.S. version, because the truth cannot emerge from just one account."

### Assembly To Request U.S. Departure Schedule for Rafters

*PA2112212194 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 21 Dec 94 p 2*

[Report by Manuel Alvarez Cedeno]

[FBIS Translated Text] The National Assembly will request that the United States present them with a

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schedule for the withdrawal of the more than 8,000 rafters staying in the Canal area, local diplomatic sources have reported.

Foreign Minister Gabriel Lewis Galindo studied the issue yesterday with the legislators on the National Assembly's Foreign and Human Rights Commissions. Lewis told the press that the legislators had asked the United States to "give us a schedule for the withdrawal of the rafters from the Canal area to be sure it is feasible and so that none of them will remain in our territory after 3 March."

Panama and the United States signed an agreement for 10,000 rafters to stay in four camps located in the Canal area, under the responsibility of the Southern Command. The pact stipulates that the rafters must leave Panamanian territory by 3 March 1995.

Oyden Ortega, president of the Assembly's credentials commission, said: "We are concerned about full compliance with this agreement." He added: "We believe there will be peace in the rafters' camps if the United States decides on their future soon. This will also ensure that Panama can be certain that the agreement will be honored."

According to reports, legislators on the two commissions will study a resolution requesting a schedule for the rafters' withdrawal, which will be announced after they visit the camps. Lucas Zarak, president of the Human Rights Commission, reiterated that the legislators would announce the resolution, but he did not say when this would occur.

The rafters staged several violent protests at the beginning of this month to demand that the United States clarify their status. According to the Panamanian Government, the rafters are "guests" of the United States. According to the Southern Command, their status is not well defined. The Cubans feel they are "prisoners" in those camps.

### ARI President on Reversion of Ft. Amador

*PA2112195294 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 6 Dec 94 p 1*

[Report by Jose Quintero De Leon]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Ernesto Perez Balladares has asked the U.S. Southern Command to withdraw the Army and Navy from Fort Amador, located on the Pacific side of the Panama Canal, by the first week of January 1996.

Interoceanic Region Authority (ARI) President Carlos Mendoza announced the request during his speech at the Third National "Unity and Human Development" meeting in Bambito (Chiriqui Province).

Mendoza explained that a social plan for the possible use of this area has begun to be implemented there with the backing of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

He insisted that the head of the executive must have a role in ARI, as the head of the government and the most genuine representative of the nation. "President Perez Balladares must have a say and a leading role in the optimum use of the reverted areas," Mendoza noted.

According to ARI's president, the harmony between the executive and legislative branches and decentralized institutions will be indispensable during the next five years. What is more, he said, within its autonomy ARI should become more closely linked to the current government's general, social, and economic policy.

On another matter, Mendoza said that it will be up to the Perez Balladares administration, with the support of the nation, to assert strongly to the United States the need to eliminate all pollution in areas that will revert to Panama.

He revealed that the U.S. Defense Department does not have funds for that purpose and added that this is "unacceptable" to Panamanians because the lands that will be returned can only be accepted "free of hidden dangers."

As for other areas to be reverted, he noted that Fort Davis and the rest of Fort Espinar (former headquarters of the School of the Americas) on the Atlantic side will be returned in mid-1995. He added that ARI has every intention of opening the Telfers Island container port for bids.

Referring to ARI's goals, he said that the Plan for the Conservation of the Canal's Hydrographic Basin, which was granted to U.S.-Panamanian consortium "Nathan Intercarib," has been drafted.

The National Economic Council (CENA) has approved the plan, and it will be submitted to the Cabinet Council for assessment. Later it will be submitted to the Legislative Assembly for approval and become the law of the land.

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## Argentina

### Menem, Fujimori Sign Joint Declaration

*PY2112133694 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2315 GMT 20 Dec 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Dec (NA)—Argentine President Carlos Menem and Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori today expressed their "profound satisfaction regarding the boost in bilateral relations." The Peruvian head of state thereby concluded his two-day official visit to our country.

The two presidents signed a joint declaration at the Olivos residence after a meeting in which the two foreign ministers participated and a news conference given by Fujimori, in which he reiterated his desire that Peru become a member of Mercosur [Common Market of the South] within three years.

Menem, who drove with Fujimori around the residence, returned the courtesy of his Peruvian colleague, who—during Menem's visit to Lima—gave Menem two alpacas that are experts in keeping golf courses clean during his visit to Lima.

Menem this afternoon gave Fujimori a mare pony and a small horse, which the Peruvian chief of staff received with elation before some 50 journalists and photographers.

In the joint declaration, Menem and Fujimori laud the consolidation of bilateral relations, which, they said, "is reflected in the progress made in cooperation, in the three important agreements signed in Lima on 10 November, and in the increase in trade" between the two countries.

They also pondered "the importance of the business contacts" that Fujimori made in Buenos Aires, which "consolidate common interests and also open up new horizons for complementary ties between the two nations."

The declaration adds that the two presidents "discussed international and regional affairs," and they also highlighted the importance of the recent Summit of the Americas held in Miami.

Finally, they reaffirmed the decision to "make greater efforts in order to make the historical pact for the development and prosperity of the continent become a reality.

### San Luis Justicialist Senator Resigns

*PY2012171394 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1118 GMT 15 Dec 94*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 15 Dec (NA)—National Senator Alberto Rodriguez Saa, from San Luis Province, has resigned from the Senate. He left harshly criticizing the economic policy which he believes is taking the country back to the 1930's.

In a communique he said: "The official sector and the main components seek to continue exercising power using a model that I do not like."

He voluntarily split from the Justicialist Party bloc because he disagrees with the draft declaration on the constitutional reform. Rodriguez Saa's situation came to a definite end on 14 December when the Senate accepted, without debate and with the favorable vote of the Justicialists, the resignation of the congressman from San Luis. [passage omitted]

### Army Intelligence Service To Be Restructured

*PY2012182994 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0130 GMT 17 Dec 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] Buenos Aires, 16 Dec (TELAM)—General Anibal Laino, director of the Army Staff, today presided over a ceremony to commemorate Military Intelligence Day and announced that the Army Intelligence Service will be restructured.

Colonel Jose Pedro Mina, commander of the Army Intelligence Service, said: "Without doubt, the Army is beginning a new historic era, and the intelligence sector cannot remain behind the times." He added: "A profound restructuring has begun on the basis of a doctrinal foundation as outlined for the Army leadership." Mina said: "The conceptual reformulation and its implementation is absolutely imperative today if we are to successfully face the demands of the future." He said: "We must build our own intelligence service," adding: "It will be useful for all our commanders."

Army Inspector General Juan Carlos Mugnolo, former intelligence commanders, and members of the intelligence unit—which is based in this capital—also participated in the ceremony. He added that "through bilateral relations" his service "has sought to increase ties with intelligence authorities of friendly countries."

He maintained that within the "spirit of the new concept of cooperative security and the framework of reduced critical structural situations," his office will seek to "increase friendly ties among friendly nations."

At the conclusion of the ceremony, prizes and diplomas were presented to Intelligence School students, and wine was served.

## Bolivia

### Union Leader Says Free Trade Area Harmful

*PY2012185594 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 13 Dec 94 p 4*

[FBIS Translated Text] The implementation of the Free Trade Area of the Americas by 2005 will greatly harm Bolivia because, as an underdeveloped country, existing small industries will disappear and there will be more unemployment.

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This comment was made by Johnny Butron, the Bolivian Labor Federation (COB) conflicts secretary, who has studied the affects on Bolivia of a large market like the one approved during the Summit of the Americas in Miami.

The Free Trade Area of the Americas, with a population of 850 million people, is not appreciated by the country's union sector.

Butron said: "We don't disagree with the plan but we realize that economic interests have prevailed and we reject this concept within the creation of a large free trade zone."

He believes that if the trade area is implemented, small producers, businessmen, and workers will be unable to compete with larger countries and "they will be condemned to disappear." He said the creation of new jobs will be difficult and small industries will disappear. He explained that although there is still plenty of time before the implementation of the large free market, Bolivia is unprepared to face the situation. Businessmen who produced finished products will be the most affected.

Butron said sectors that produce raw materials are better able to enjoy the benefits of the large market, but not the industries. He said that since a free market has prevailed in Bolivia and in neighboring countries, negative results have been seen in national industries because foreign products have flooded the domestic market under the guise of free competition.

Regarding other points approved by the 34 state leaders at the Miami Summit, Butron said there is no opposition because those points are shared by the workers. He added: "We agree with the total struggle against drug trafficking and poverty but it is still not known if we can really resolve the problem of misery."

Butron said drug trafficking affects our country and many others, and this is why actions should be carried out at the international level. He believes any plan against drug trafficking should be discussed with various sectors.

## Deputy Resigns 'Unexpectedly' From UCS

*PY2012205594 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 10 Dec 94 p 6*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Deputy Michael Meier yesterday unexpectedly resigned from his party, the Solidarity Civic Union (UCS), claiming ideological disagreements with UCS leader Max Fernandez's clique. His resignation caught his fellow UCS deputies by surprise, because until right before his announcement their relationship with him had been absolutely normal.

Meier held a news conference during which he sought to justify his decision to become an "independent deputy," claiming disagreements regarding party ideology and principles with Max Fernandez's "clique," although his explanation dealt with organizational matters only.

After Meier's resignation was made public, a rumor started that Juan Malki had also left the "UCS ship," but Malki publicly refuted this rumor and pledged allegiance to Fernandez.

Now that Meier has resigned, the UCS has only 13 lawmakers in Congress. [passage omitted]

## Arias: Peasant Leaders Thwarting Committee Efforts

*PY2012235694 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 13 Dec 94 p 7*

[FBIS Translated Text] Ivan Arias, adviser to the Vice Presidency of the Republic, yesterday said that the "short-sightedness" and "blackmailing attitude" of some peasant leaders are thwarting the creation of the Bolivian Committee for the International Decade of World Indigenous Communities, which will cause irreparable damage to these indigenous nations.

He lamented the fact that due to the "obstructive and blackmailing spirit" of the leaders of the General Trade Union Confederation of Peasant Workers of Bolivia (CSUTCB), the country was not able to install a promoting committee on the date (11 December 1994) on which the United Nations officially dedicated at a world level the Decade of Indigenous Communities.

He said that 11 December was a painful day for the Bolivian indigenous peoples, because the simple "short-sightedness" of such leaders as Nestor Bravo made it impossible to continue the pace that Bolivia had established at an international level concerning the organization and declaration of the decade.

Arias said that despite the initial progress between the executive branch and Bolivian indigenous peoples and peasants, the objective of establishing the promoting committee has not been achieved, as the CSUTCB representative questioned the motion that it be chaired, with right to vote, by Vice President Victor Hugo Cardenas.

According to the vice president, the promoting committee, which is made up of 10 members (with an equal number of representatives of the executive branch and indigenous people) must be headed by the vice president, who guarantees a consensus.

He explained that because of "short-sightedness" concerning the idea of establishing committees with the sole presence of indigenous nations, the state must be involved in the activities of the decade, so that the initiatives that intend to find solutions to the many problems the indigenous people are facing will "not be dead at birth."

Arias expressed his fear that because of obstruction by certain CSUTCB leaders the damage will be irreparable for the indigenous nations, as it will change the image of

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the country, which over the past few months has marked the pace in initiatives and organization of the international decade.

For that activity the Bolivian state developed significant engagement through the Vice Presidency of the Republic, which contrasts tremendously with other countries, where the presence of the state was weak or almost nonexistent, he said.

The delay in establishing a national promoting committee could cause the loss of international funds earmarked for programs in favor of the indigenous communities, which due to the Bolivian absence could easily be earmarked for other countries.

Arias also recalled that the decade will transcend the current Bolivian Government, and for this reason, instead of thinking with factional ideas, we must set the bases for the various programs to be developed during those 10 years.

He said: "If we do not do anything, the next government could shelve the issue, thus harming the indigenous communities."

Arias added that even the demand submitted by the CSUTCB representative—that the Bolivian Labor Federation (COB), which is not directly linked to the indigenous issue, be represented on the board of advisers of the national committee to be constituted soon—was accepted.

He lamented also the fact that in the quest for solutions, CSUTCB leaders Nestor Bravo and Felix Santos promised to attend a meeting slated for 9 December, but which they inexplicably failed to attend, thus disregarding the other national institutions that showed up for the meeting.

### Sanchez Accepts Resignation of Government Minister

*PY2112190394 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 21 Dec 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada has answered the letter of resignation from Government Minister German Quiroga as follows:

Dear German, I deeply regret your decision to resign, but at the same time I understand it and value the scope of this decision, as it entails an ethical and moral issue which, as you say, has nothing to do with politics.

It is only on very rare occasions that we have witnessed cases such as this one, in which a man voluntarily resigns his privileges to be able to defend his personal dignity, which was dubiously questioned by a photograph of obscure origin.

It is a great irony that one of the people who has shown great evidence of his struggle against drug trafficking and in favor of the full enforcement of the law, as in the case of former dictator Luis Garcia Meza, should endure this difficult moment.

Together we have trodden a long path since we shared the unrest and concerns during Victor Paz Estenssoro's administration. We were together during the victorious campaigns of the years 1989 and 1993, during which time you proved your great loyalty and desire to serve Bolivia's interests.

You have my full support and solidarity. You have a special place that will always be awaiting you in the army of Bolivian women and men who every day work to build a better country for all.

## Brazil

### Franco Installs National Energy Committee

*PY2112184294 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 21 Dec 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] President Itamar Franco yesterday installed the National Energy Committee, whose priority goal is to seek energy integration among the Mercosur [Common Market of the South] members.

Besides energy integration within Mercosur, the commission, which is made up of 10 ministers and headed by the mines and energy minister, will also seek to reactivate the Alcohol Production Program, Proalcool.

As for domestic policy, the commission will mainly study the rational use and preservation of all types of energy sources.

### Army Arrests Leading Rio Drug Trafficker

*PY2012195794 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 18 Dec 94 p 2*

[FBIS Translated Text] On 16 December, police from Police Station No. 125 in Sao Pedro d'Aldeia, Rio de Janeiro, arrested one of the drug traffickers most sought after by the Army. Pedro Gilson de Araujo, aka Pedrinho da Prata, 33, drug trafficking leader of the Dona Marta slum in Botafogo, was arrested on the Amaral Peixoto Highway near Jardim Esperança District, in Sao Pedro D'Aldeia, Regiao dos Lagos, a few meters away from the local police station. There he said that he had not engaged in drug trafficking for the past two years, and that he works for a local lumber company.

According to the chief of Police Station No. 125, Ignacio Bagueira Leal, the Eastern Military Command has already been informed of the arrest of Araujo. Yesterday morning the Army implemented roadblocks on the Washington Luiz Highway (linking Rio de Janeiro and Petropolis) near Duque de Caxias, and on the Niteroi-Manila Highway near Sao Goncalo. Nearly all vehicles were inspected by the military. The roadblocks caused huge traffic jams on the two main access roads to Rio de Janeiro.

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**Prison**

Police Inspector Marcos Parada, who commanded Araujo's arrest, reported that Araujo was in a jeep heading for Rio de Janeiro: "The names in his documents reminded me of the news published in the newspapers, so I ordered his arrest." The inspector added that the drug trafficker was living at his father-in-law's house in Sao Pedro d'Aldeia. "In Rio de Janeiro he lives at 77 Livramento Street," Parada said.

As Polinter [Interstate Police] reported that no arrest warrant had been issued against him, Police Station No. 125 asked for his detention based on the connection between his name and drug trafficking. According to Police Chief Bagueira, Araujo will be transferred to the Drug Enforcement Division in Rio de Janeiro.

Despite being known as a drug trafficking leader in the Dona Marta slum, the Military Police secret service knew that Araujo did not live in the slum. According to the police, Araujo is allegedly responsible for the supply of drugs to the areas near Botafogo District. The sales are carried out by the brothers Raimundinho, Ronaldinho, and Fernandinho, Araujo's trusted men. Drug trafficking is not Araujo's only illegal activity. He is charged with having committed several bank robberies.

### CEI Discovers Executive Branch Corruption

*PY2012194094 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 13 Dec 94 p A7*

[Article by Vannildo Mendes]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Brasilia—The Special Investigating Committee [CEI] looking into irregularities committed in the executive branch has concluded that 100 percent of the projects and accords signed by the Social Security Ministry contain some sort of irregularity against the public coffers. These irregularities have been occurring for a long time, since the days of the Jose Sarney administration through that of Itamar Franco. In reaching this conclusion the CEI chose at random eight recent accords, and found out that irregularities continue to occur.

Yesterday the CEI ordered the opening of administrative inquests to investigate charges of irregularities in the remodeling and enlarging of the Papuda penitentiary in Brasilia and in the National System of Highway Costs [Sistema Nacional de Custos Rodoviarios, SNCR], which is administered by the Transportation Ministry. The CEI, which was established to investigate corruption in the executive branch, held its next to last meeting yesterday, 12 December, and had to extend its work through today because of the large number of charges received. They still do not know when the work will be finished.

The CEI has found out that as a result of the dismantling of the governmental supervising apparatus during former President Collor's days in office, the SNCR—on the basis of which federal government payments to construction companies and suppliers who work for the Transportation Ministry are figured out—has become one of the worst sources of corruption in the government. It has also found out that prices are increased by an average of 40 percent and, in some cases, by as much as 200 percent. According to the CEI the Transportation Ministry leads the corruption list, followed by the Ministries of Social Security, Regional Integration, and Health. [passage omitted]

The CEI is composed of eight civilian and government representatives and is headed by Federal Administration Secretary Romildo Canhim. During the 13 December meeting the CEI held long discussions about various forms of money "laundering." These and several suggestions will be included in a long report, with three chapters, that will be handed to President Itamar Franco. [passage omitted]

## Chile

### Poll Shows 51 Percent Support Frei's Government

*PY2112204294 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 1700 GMT 21 Dec 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] Some 51 percent of Chileans approve of the way in which President Eduardo Frei is heading the government. This was revealed by a Political Studies Center poll, conducted between 12 November and 5 December with 1,495 people over 18 from rural and urban Chilean sectors.

Asked if they approved of the way Eduardo Frei is conducting the government, 51 percent said yes, 24 percent said no, 21 percent were indifferent, and 4 percent did not know or did not answer.

Regarding the current economic situation, 33 percent said it was bad, 16 percent good, and 51 percent consider it neither good nor bad. As for the problems citizens consider most urgent, 50 percent believe health and poverty are the most urgent, while 40 percent believe delinquency, robberies, and theft are the most important.

## Colombia

### Government Reiterates Intent To Destroy Illegal Crops

*PA2212043294 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Canal A Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Dec 94*

[From the "Seven O'Clock Newscast"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Today, the Colombian Government publicly expressed its disagreement with Prosecutor General Alfonso Valdivieso, who opposes the agreements reached with small-scale coca farmers in San Jose del Guaviare.

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The government today said that coca, marijuana, and poppy crops will be destroyed, regardless of their extension. Asked what he would tell the Prosecutor General during tomorrow's National Drug Council meeting, Government Minister Horacio Serpa answered:

[Begin Serpa recording] I will tell him that, with due respect, he misinterpreted the agreement. The government's position is clear. We oppose drug trafficking, which takes place because coca, marijuana, and poppy are grown. [end recording]

The government recalled that the destruction of illegal crops is accompanied by an alternative program to recover the areas for other crops.

## Ecuador

### Minister Denies Border Problems With Peru

*PA2112200894 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Dec 94*

[From "The Voz Andes Newscast"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Finance Minister Jose Gallardo [title as heard] has ruled out any border problems with Peru. He affirmed that he does not know where those ill-intended rumors came from. He added such rumors are aimed at scaring Ecuadorans about a possible war with the country to the south. In any event, he denied that the Army has declared a yellow alert or ordered troop mobilizations on the Peruvian border.

### Constitutional Reforms Approved in 1st Debate

*PA2112195594 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Dec 94*

[From "The Voz Andes Newscast"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Congress has approved in the first debate the constitutional reforms proposed in the recent referendum. The lawmakers reached a preliminary accord after two weeks of tension, when some attempted to build a new provisional and opportunistic majority.

The constitutional reforms approved in the first debate are: reelection of the president and vice president after a term, and immediate reelection of deputies. To reelect mayors and municipal officials it is first necessary to reform the section administration law. The reforms also include participation by independent citizens in the electoral process, the approval of a budget by sector, legislators no longer handling budget allotments, and Ecuadorans who acquire another citizenship will retain their Ecuadoran citizenship.

Congress will again discuss the reforms proposed in the most recent referendum on Tuesday, 27 December. On that occasion, the deputies will approve in the second and final debate said provisions so that they become the law of the Republic, after approval by the president.

### Acting Finance Minister on 1995 Economic Prospects

*PA2112195694 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Dec 94*

[From "The Voz Andes Newscast"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Acting Finance Minister Rene Sanchez has said inflation in Ecuador for 1995 will not exceed 15 to 18 percent. Sanchez announced that starting on 1 January 1995, the government will implement a new economic plan that does not create [words indistinct] but does establish the necessary adjustments. Sanchez ruled out an increase in the price of gas, but not in the price of gasoline. He added the price fluctuation regulation for hydrocarbons will continue.

### Abraham Romero Appointed New Government Minister

*PA2112195494 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Dec 94*

[From "The Voz Andes Newscast"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Abraham Romero has been appointed the new minister of government, replacing Marcelo Santos Vera, who shall be ambassador to the Vatican. Romero is a politician from Riobamba with a long political career. He has held the posts of mayor, the prefecture's office, and, recently, deputy for Chimborazo Province. He will be sworn in this afternoon.

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